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## New plan to control bank boards

**By PINHAS LANDAU**  
Jerusalem Post Finance Reporter

The bank shares to be redeemed by the government this year and next in the \$7 billion "bank share arrangement" should be given voting rights, while the power vested in "founders' shares" should be sharply reduced.

This is the main recommendation of the first draft of an internal Bank of Israel report that will be given to Governor Michael Bruno this morning.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that the report, drafted by Avi Ben-Bassat of the central bank's research department, also contains new ideas for easing the financial burden placed on the government by the \$1.3 billion repayment in October this year, and the \$3.8 billion repayment in October 1988.

The report reiterates the government's commitment to meeting these obligations in full. It also ex-

pands on earlier work done by teams in the Treasury and the Bank of Israel, in considering which options to offer the public for reinvesting the large sums involved, while minimizing the cost of this debt recycling for the government.

Government officials believe the report to be particularly timely in view of the renewed focus on the different voting power of founders' shares and regular shares in the banks involved in the "arrangement," especially in light of the ongoing Bank Leumi crisis.

The lack of involvement of Leumi's parent body, the Jewish Colonial Trust (JCT), in overseeing the bank's policy — to the extent that the boards of directors of Leumi and JCT were identical — is widely perceived as undesirable. It was in this environment that Leumi ex-chairman Ernest Japhet and other senior officials received huge amounts in salary, severance pay

and pensions, which were authorized by the board without full disclosure of the terms.

Officials stress, though, that any change in the voting status of founders' shares would have to affect all the banks, and not only the relationship between Leumi and its parent body. Similar structures exist in Bank Hapoalim vis-à-vis Hevrat Ha'ovdim, and in United Mizrahi Bank vis-à-vis the World Mizrahi Organization. In the case of Bank Discount, control of the parent company, IDB Bankholding, is in the hands of the Recanati family.

Meanwhile, yesterday saw a special meeting of the JCT council, a body whose members are proposed by the World Zionist Organization and who, once confirmed in office, hold their positions for life. This organ's function has hitherto been primarily ceremonial, but yesterday's meeting was called by JCT governor Arye Dulzin to consider

the recent events in Bank Leumi with a view to reimposing JCT's control on the bank.

Dulzin was unable to produce an agreed candidate for the Bank Leumi chairmanship, or even a list of directors to be proposed by the JCT council and authorized by the outgoing Bank Leumi board, which resigned on Tuesday night. Dulzin and Eli Hurwitz, who will remain as chairman until a replacement is found, have been holding intensive negotiations with several possible candidates, as well as with the Bank of Israel, whose agreement is seen as a *sine qua non* for any appointment.

But the central bank is by no means the only party involved. Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Premier Peres have been consulted, as well as Finance Minister Nissim. Leumi's chief executive officer, Mordechai Einhorn, has an important, if not formal, influence on the

(Continued on Back Page)

## Histadrut needs Peres to tie up package deal

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN**  
**AVI TEMKIN**  
**AND SARAH HONIG**

After yesterday's impasse in the struggle between the government and the Histadrut over the signing of the new economic package deal, the parties are now waiting for Vice Premier Peres to step in and use his political weight to bring about a solution.

A meeting between officials of the Histadrut's Kupat Holim Clalit and the Treasury ended shortly after it began yesterday, with the Treasury officials saying that they were not authorized to make any decisions. Kupat Holim sources told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The Histadrut has refused to sign the package deal reached earlier this week on economic reforms unless the government agrees to pay the health fund NIS 140 million, based on an agreement signed last March.

With no further meetings scheduled for today, following the fruitless attempts of the last few days to resolve the dispute, Histadrut sources said that Peres and Finance Minister Nissim would have to find a way to break the deadlock.

The feeling in the Histadrut is that Peres will have to intervene in the dispute, so that the efforts he has

invested in shaping the package deal are not wasted.

Peres told members of his party's political bureau yesterday that the government would have to meet its commitments to Kupat Holim, although the agreement between the health fund and the Treasury was subject to various interpretations. He did not specify which interpretation he supported.

Peres said that he had supported the devaluation of the shekel, and that "during the last night when the plan was finalized, things reached such a state that I practically had to assume personal responsibility for the whole package." Peres justified the devaluation and said it allowed "agriculture, tourism and industry to breathe free."

He went on to say that some elements in the original economic reform programme were not acceptable, such as the proposal to abolish various tax exemptions.

Peres strenuously objected to the health minister's and the education minister's opposition to the economic programme. He said their ministries had received additional funds from the reserve budget. As for the defence budget, he said he remained steadfast in his opposition to any cuts.

Kupat Holim is demanding that the government fulfil its commit-

ment to pay for the wage agreement recently made with the hospital nurses, 4,000 of whom are Kupat Holim employees.

According to last year's agreement with the government, Kupat Holim was supposed to fire 1,700 workers, cut \$42 million from its budget and sell property worth some \$30m, which it has carried out. Kupat Holim spokesman David Tzagar said yesterday. In exchange, the government was to have paid for unanticipated expenses, such as, the NIS 40m. needed to pay the nurses.

The agreement between the government and Kupat Holim also states that the Histadrut should receive its usual development allocation of some NIS 60m. from the government this year. Instead, the government wants to provide these funds as loans, which the health fund refuses to take.

Finally, the health fund is demanding that the government pay its designated share of Kupat Holim's budget. The Histadrut says that the government delayed signing the budget agreement with Kupat Holim until last October, forcing Kupat Holim to pay interest on loans needed until the government funds arrived.

The head of the Treasury's budget

(Continued on Back Page)

## Ya'ari and Granot get life terms

**By YORAM GAZIT**  
For the *Jerusalem Post*

TEL AVIV. — Hava Ya'ari and Aviva Granot were found guilty of murdering Mela Melavsky and sentenced to life imprisonment by the district court here yesterday.

Ya'ari, whose testimony had been marked by occasional emotional outbursts, appeared calm as court president Hana Eynor read the verdict and summarized the 100-page decision. The court found that the two women had murdered Melavsky after failing to persuade her not to report that they had stolen \$52,000 from her bank account.

Granot, formerly Ya'ari's closest friend, listened to the verdict with a frozen expression.

Long after the two women were taken back to the Neveh Tirza prison, the audience in the packed courtroom remained in place, as if they were reluctant to face the fact that the "show" was over.

Ehud Ya'ari, a television reporter who did not reveal his emotions during the many months of his wife's trial, also stayed in his seat after their departure, with his head bent and his face marked with pain.

The prosecutor strode triumphantly from the courtroom, pausing for a moment beside Ehud Ya'ari, but then continuing without saying a word.

The attorneys for both Ya'ari and Granot said that they would appeal the verdict and the sentences.

Before Judge Eynor announced the verdict, she turned down a request by Ya'ari's attorneys to hear new testimony by Granot about a letter she allegedly wrote to Ya'ari's daughter, saying that her mother had not killed Melavsky. Eynor said it was not necessary to consider the letter at this point.

Melavsky, 55, an American tourist who had had previous dealings with Ya'ari and Granot in Israel, was murdered near the beach at Tel Baruch on March 10, 1985.

Eynor first discussed the time the murder occurred, a point that was stressed by Ya'ari's attorneys as crucial in proving her innocence.

The defendants claimed that they were home by 7 p.m., while Melavsky was killed later. They based this claim on the testimony of a night-watchman in the area. He said that at 7 p.m. he walked down the path where Melavsky's body was found later by a prostitute, but he did not see the body.

The court rejected the defendants' version and placed them at the scene of the murder on the basis of evidence collected there by police.

The court accepted the testimony of coroner Yehuda Hiss, who said



Hava Ya'ari (left) and Aviva Granot (right) are taken back to prison yesterday after being convicted of murder in the Tel Aviv District Court. (Ippa)

## The Washington Post:

### North's Iranian arms sales plan suggested involving the pope

WASHINGTON. — *The Washington Post* yesterday reported that former National Security Council aide Oliver North's Iranian arms sale plan suggested involving Pope John Paul.

The plan's chief aims were to secure the release of all foreign hostages in Lebanon and put an end to the rule of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the newspaper said.

It quoted sources as saying the first goal listed in the plan dated January 24, 1986, and found in North's files, was to establish "a

more moderate government in Iran."

North's plan envisaged first a trade of U.S. weapons with moderate Iranian elements for the release of hostages, then the involvement of religious leaders such as the pope and Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, said the *Post*.

Finally, it added, North planned a high-level meeting, an exchange of more weapons for the release of all remaining hostages in Lebanon and Khomeini's departure.

The paper did not say if the plan spelled out how the moderates

would take over Iran's government or what role the church leaders would play.

Many Republican legislators investigating the Iran-Contra affair believe President Reagan should accept full responsibility for his administration's actions. *The New York Times* said yesterday.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Reagan had personally authorized former National Security adviser Robert McFarlane's trip to Iran and sent him a document that recognized the revolutionary Iranian government "as a fact."

(Reuters, AP)

## Icy Europe's death toll tops 200

**By Jerusalem Post Staff**  
**and Agencies**

The death toll in Europe's worst winter in decades topped 200 yesterday as authorities from Poland and Hungary to Britain and Spain reported finding more frozen victims of the record-setting cold spell.

Forecasters expected the Arctic weather to last through the weekend, posing a dire threat to the poor and homeless and a major problem for businesses with staff unable to get to work because snow and ice have blocked road and rail commuter routes.

In West Germany, icebreakers smashed up an ice-jam in the River

Elbe and saved 15,000 people living near the frozen waterway from evacuation.

Icebreakers did the job when army demolition experts decided it was too risky to blow up the dam that threatened protective dykes, said a spokesman for a special crisis team.

Israeli forecasters said yesterday that instead of moving towards this country, the cold air over Europe will move north. According to Shmuel Jaffe, deputy director of the Meteorological Service, the presence of a low pressure system over Europe has prevented a similar system from developing here because

two lows generally don't develop side by side.

"Normally Israel and Europe are out of phase," Jaffe said. "It's like a wave. When there's a ridge over Israel, there is a trough over Europe."

Across north Europe snow ploughs were out and rescue workers battled to reach hundreds of cut-off villages, while energy supplies were hit in some areas and thousands of schools remained closed.

Hungry wolves were scavenging through Czechoslovak villages, and troops in France and Britain were helping get food to snowbound areas.

## Shamir 'could trade land for peace'

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in an optimistic review of Middle East peace efforts, suggested yesterday that his refusal to trade Israeli-occupied land for peace would not be his last word in negotiations with Arab states.

"Nobody will expect me to say now what will be my position when we meet," Shamir told Reuters in an interview. "We have different positions, it is true. But the first condition for getting a possibility to bridge the gap between us is to meet and talk face-to-face."

### To Grandma Edith and Grandpa Sam

Much love on your  
50th wedding anniversary

Lara, Liat and Lisa.

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With deep grief we announce the passing of

**CAROLINE GRUSS** ע"ה

wife of the distinguished philanthropist

**Joseph Gruss**

She passed away in the U.S. on Wednesday.

The coffin will arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport on Sunday, 17th of Tevet (January 18) aboard El Al flight no. 008 at 4:10 p.m.

The funeral cortege will arrive at the Gruss Centre, 5 Zichron Ya'acov St., Romema, Jerusalem, and will depart at 6 p.m. for Bayit Vegan and from there to the Mt. of Olives Cemetery where she will be buried.

Shiva at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Owing to the state of health of the principal mourner, condolence visits will take place between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The Organizing Committee

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## The weather at major Swissair destinations

15.1.87	MIN.	MAX.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	-14	07	4-18	Clear
BRUSSELS	-16	14	4-25	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	18	24	7-18	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-18	14	7-18	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-13	19	7-18	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-13	19	7-18	Cloudy
GENEVA	-13	19	7-18	Cloudy
HELSINKI	-18	14	7-18	Cloudy
HONGKONG	15	29	19-24	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	15	29	19-24	Clear
LONDON	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
MADRID	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
NEW YORK	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
OSLO	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
PARIS	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	15	29	19-24	Clear
STOCKHOLM	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy
TOKYO	15	29	19-24	Clear
ZURICH	-1	10	7-18	Cloudy

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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Jerusalem: 02-5252255  
Paris: 01-5252255  
Sao Paulo: 01-5252255  
Cairo: 01-5252255

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, with a rise in temperatures, continuing through Saturday.

Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	Humidity	Humidity
Jerusalem	36	10-20
Galilee	45	8-19
Nahariya	37	8-14
Safed	37	8-14
Haifa Port	48	9-20
Tiberias	48	6-20
Nazareth	27	10-18
Afula	39	2-20
Shomron	41	7-18
Tel Aviv	39	8-20
B-G Airport	38	4-21
Jericho	41	-1
Gaza	76	0-18
Beersheba	15	6-24
Eilat	17	8-25

## Birth

**SCHRIGER** - A son to Stephanie (Alteu) and Stanley Schriger, on January 13, 1987 (Tevet 12, 5747), at Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem.

**HALEVY** - To Linda and Ya'acov Halevy, a boy, brother to Beily, on Sunday, January 11, at Tel Hashomer Hospital. Grandparents: Sheila and Bernard Berniker, Yochved and Rabbi Moshe Halevy.

## Nakash asks probe of deaths in French jails

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

William Nakash's attorney, Roland Roth, yesterday asked the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court to investigate the deaths of two Israelis in French jails.

It is suspected that the two were murdered, Roth said in his request, and did not commit suicide as the French authorities reported.

The requests were submitted by Sol and Baruch Ben Naim of Netanya, whose son, Zion, died in 1982 in a prison near Paris, and by Shlomo Vidal of Holon, whose brother Moshe died in 1983 in the Rouen prison.

Justice Minister Avraham Shafir's decision not to extradite Nakash to France is currently under review by the High Court of Justice. Shafir cited the dangers awaiting Nakash in a French jail as the main reason for his decision.

## Salute to Gentiles to be held on Sunday

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Society for a Better Israel, in cooperation with Yad Vashem, will hold a salute to Righteous Gentiles at Habimah Theatre on Sunday evening. Five persons will be flown here from Europe free of charge by El Al, while the Tel Aviv Municipality will contribute the use of the Habimah premises.

## YA'ARI

(Continued from Page One)

that Melavsky was killed after being hit on the head with a heavy instrument. She was then placed in a sitting position with her legs crossed and her face down, and was pushed from behind by Ya'ari's car until her scalp was torn off.

In their decision the judges placed special emphasis on the fact that Ya'ari came to the meeting with Melavsky in her husband's car, and that neither she nor Granot had told anyone about the meeting.

Evnor noted that Ya'ari later drove to East Jerusalem to change the car's tires, and that she had also replaced the seatcovers after the killing.

Evnor explained that the decision to convict the defendants of murder came after the judges were convinced by the prosecution that Ya'ari and Granot planned to kill Melavsky following her discovery that a large sum had been stolen from her bank account.

The court decided not to accept the argument of Ya'ari's attorneys that the theft of Melavsky's money was not a reasonable motive for murder.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

### Weizman as future FM?

## Labour okays Yahad merger

By SARAH BONIG  
Post Political Correspondent

**TEL AVIV** - The Labour Party's political bureau yesterday approved the merger with Ezer Weizman's Yahad list, but it must still be ratified by the central committee at the end of the month.

The merger was adopted by acclamation, and is reported to have received a considerable majority.

It nevertheless aroused a great deal of controversy in Labour, especially after it was revealed that there is a secret clause promising Weizman the foreign affairs portfolio in the event of a narrow Labour-led coalition being formed before the next elections. It also promises no less than 20 positions for Yahad men on a number of boards of public com-

panies, one ambassadorship, two consulates abroad, a deputy minister in the prime minister's office, the chairmanship of either the Knesset finance or economics committee, and other posts.

Former MK Michael Bar Zohar, who led the opposition to the deal, asked if it did not make "Weizman a mercenary. Labour's government was made possible not only by Weizman but also by Yigael Hurvitz, and Shitui. Why did they not make the same extortionist demands?"

The agreement contracted after the 1984 elections, in which Weizman undertook not to join a narrow Likud government, gives Weizman one of the first five slots on the Labour list. Yahad MK Binyamin Ben Eliezer gets the cosy 25th slot

and MK Shlomo Amar the 41st slot. Three more slots have been allocated to Yahad after the fiftieth slot, and Labour will pay all the debts incurred by Yahad in the 1984 elections.

More opposition came from the Young Guard, led by Ephraim Zinger, who charged that some politicians have "positions guaranteed them by name."

Vice Premier Peres was outspoken in his support of the deal, and argued that Labour must honour its commitments.

Much will now depend on whether the central committee vote is by secret ballot. A secret ballot might allow members to defy the party leadership.

## Moshav closes its doors

By Bradley Burston  
For The Jerusalem Post

**TALMEI YOSEF** - When members latch the front gate of this moshav not far from Gaza, the reason is usually security. Yesterday, however, the reason was bankruptcy.

Since Thursday morning members of this western Negev settlement have kept themselves locked inside their main gate to protest against a recent court decision placing their assets in receivership.

"For over a year we've been the pawns in a game played by the Jewish Agency, Bank Leumi, and the moshav purchasing organization," the moshav's secretary, Zvi Nissim, told The Jerusalem Post yesterday. "The gate is as far as we're willing to let them play with us."

Last week the moshav lost a protracted legal battle to forestall bankruptcy proceedings. Moshav members have expressed fears that creditors, principally Bank Leumi, will attempt to confiscate their property for debts amounting to \$4m.

The embattled moshav was founded in the late 1970s by South African immigrants. In 1978 they settled in the Yamit region, but were forced to relocate three years later under the

terms of the Camp David accord.

"A few of the original members received reparation payments from the government and left the moshav," Nissim recalls. "The government promised the rest of us that the expenses of the relocation would be reimbursed, but the promise was never kept."

"For years aliya emissaries sent over families from Johannesburg and New York directly to the moshav. These were people who had little background in Hebrew, moshav work, or Israeli society. To help them, the Jewish Agency generously sent money, at first, without asking for repayment."

According to Nissim, the debt crisis began over a year ago, following the collapse of the moshav movement's purchasing organization.

By far the most aggressive demand for repayment came from Bank Leumi, whose majority stockholder is the Jewish Agency. Nissim said. Interest rates were 20-30 per cent a month, he added.

Since the crisis began, over a third of Talmei Yosef's families have left the moshav. A court-appointed receiver is scheduled to initiate bankruptcy proceedings in early February.

## Hospital doctors strike on Tuesday

Jerusalem Post Health Reporter

The country's 2,800 government hospital doctors will strike for one day on Tuesday, it was announced last night. The doctors say that with the budget cuts in the hospital network they cannot provide adequate care.

This will follow the strike due to start on Monday by 18,000 maintenance and administrative workers at government hospitals.

## Maccabi triumphs

By YORAM KESSEL

Whatever happens to them for the rest of the season Maccabi Tel Aviv's basketballers can return home from Belgium today with their heads held high.

Written off as dead losses before last night's return game against the Soviet champions Zalgiris Kaunas they displayed heart-stopping courage that lifted them to a magnificent 81-74 European Cup victory over the mighty Lithuanians.

It may not be enough to carry them all the way to the final in May but the commitment and dedication displayed by Magee, Johnson, Berkowitz, Janchee and Lippin (each deserves individual mention) should be sufficient to still forever all the cynical fairweather friends who had damned them as disappointing no-hopers.

Trailing by nine points at the half (33-42) one would have been hard-pressed to find a household in the nation with a kind word for the team. Undaunted by a ferocity of effort and Algerian commitment that soon had Zalgiris reeling, Once they had the feel of the juggler, Maccabi's men of faith and determination were never going to let up again.

It was a stirring night, and a memorable one. No less for the fact that finally Doron Janchee came of age as a basketballer with a mammoth performance.

Top scorers - Maccabi: Magee 25, Janchee 25, Johnson 17.

Zalgiris: Sabonis 17, Brazis 16.

## An-Najah U. warned again

By JOEL GREENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israeli officials have for the second time this week warned administrators of An-Najah University in Nablus that the university will be severely punished if there are disturbances when the campus reopens on Monday.

An-Najah was ordered closed for the last two weeks on grounds that disturbances were planned at the campus. Twenty students have been arrested, according to university sources.

The Nablus military governor and the deputy head of the Civil Administration yesterday summoned An-Najah board of trustees chairman Hikmat al-Masri and top university officials to warn them that "very severe measures" will be taken if there is trouble, a university spokesman said.

He added that the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmuel Goron, had also warned him earlier this week that the campus would be shut for an extended period if there was unrest.

University officials yesterday asked that the arrested students be released to ease tensions before next week's reopening.

Students at Bethlehem University yesterday held a demonstration in solidarity with An-Najah, and condemned the closure as part of an Israeli campaign against "national institutions" in the West Bank.

The student council president, speaking at a podium draped with a

Palestinian flag, denounced Jordan's King Hussein and condemned Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij for statements on Jordanian television in support of Jordan's five-year development plan for the territories. Speakers also included student representatives from An-Najah.

At the Balata refugee camp near Nablus yesterday, demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and threw stones at Israeli soldiers, but there were no injuries. Stones were also thrown at Israeli vehicles near Balata and in Nablus, and the windshield of one car was smashed.

## Kollek questioned

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek was questioned by the police for two-and-a-half hours yesterday in connection with the Rafi Levy case.

Kollek, who is not a suspect, told investigators of the relations between the Jerusalem Municipality and the District Planning Committee, which had been headed by Levy. Kollek also answered questions on Levy's contacts with him and other municipality employees.

The meeting with the police was described as "very congenial" by a municipality spokesman. (See report - Page 4)

**TREMOR** - An earthquake in Southern Lebanon yesterday, which registered 4.8 on the Richter scale, was felt in Safad, Haifa and other parts of the north.

**BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY**  
extends sincerest condolences to  
**Mr. Joseph S. Gruss**  
one of the world's greatest patrons of Jewish education  
and to his children  
**Evelyn and Martin**  
on the death of their beloved wife and mother  
**CAROLINE**  
a most generous benefactor of  
every worthy cause of the Jewish people.

**HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION**  
mourns the passing of  
**CAROLINE GRUSS**  
of New York, N.Y.  
and extends condolences to  
**Joseph Gruss and Family.**

Deeply grieved at the passing of  
**CAROLINE GRUSS**  
We extend our sincerest condolences  
to **Joseph and Martin and the family.**  
**Lord Sleff of Brimpton**  
**Mr. Benno Gitter**  
**Dr. Y. Rotenstreich**  
**Mr. A. Horev**

**Yeshiva University**  
deeply mourns the passing of our dear benefactor  
**CAROLINE GRUSS**  
a friend and ardent supporter of Yeshiva University and the  
Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Israel.  
We offer sincere condolences to our esteemed trustee and  
benefactor **Mr. Joseph S. Gruss and family.**  
The funeral service will take place in the late afternoon on  
Sunday, January 18, 1987 (17 Tevet 5747) at the Caroline and  
Joseph S. Gruss Institute, Givat Mordechai, Jerusalem.  
The exact time will be announced on Sunday.

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved  
**ESTHER SHAUL**  
and her son  
**ZVI SHAUL**  
there will be a memorial service and tombstone unveiling at 2:15 p.m.  
on Monday, January 19, 1987 (18 Tevet) at the Mount of Olives  
Cemetery, Cohanim Section 5 (opposite the Inter-Continental Hotel).  
We will set out from 46 Arzei Habira at 2:00 a.m.  
For further information, call Sterman, Tel. 02-813011.

To **Martea Moradi**  
Deepest sympathy on the passing of your  
**Father**  
Staff of the Bank of Israel  
and the Governor's Bureau  
Jerusalem

With sorrow, we announce the death of our dear husband and brother  
**ERNST KORBER**  
He bequeathed his body to science.  
His wife: **Dora**  
His sister: **Ilse Vilens (England)**  
Haifa

To the  
**ROSENFELD FAMILY**  
We deeply mourn the passing of  
**AARON ROSENFELD**  
Father of Tsvi Rosenfeld  
Managing Director of ABC Containerline NV, Antwerp  
Sea Lanes NV, Antwerp

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
and the Staff of the Ministry  
mourn the passing of  
**LAURO SOUTELLO ALVES**  
The Ambassador of Brazil  
and extend sincere condolences to  
**Mrs. Maria Eugenia Ribeiro de Soutello Alves**  
and the bereaved family

We deeply mourn the passing of our  
sincere friend and father-in-law  
**EZRA SHALOM MUSSAFFI**  
Sami Balass (son-in-law)  
The Balass Family

The Government of Israel  
mourns the passing of  
**LAURO SOUTELLO ALVES**  
The Ambassador of Brazil  
and extends sincere condolences to  
**Mrs. Maria Eugenia Ribeiro de Soutello Alves**  
the bereaved family  
and the Government of Brazil

5521 من الاصل



## U.S. may ask extradition

## Bonn seizes suspected hijacker of TWA plane

BONN (Reuters). — West Germany said yesterday it was holding a Lebanese suspected of hijacking an American TWA airliner to Beirut in June 1985 and security sources said they expected Washington to ask for his extradition.

Frankfurt Examining Magistrate Horst Wolfmeier said the 22-year-old Lebanese had been captured on Tuesday at Frankfurt Airport when customs officials found he was carrying three wine bottles containing explosive fluid.

The Lebanese, who arrived in Frankfurt on a Middle East Airlines flight from Beirut, said he did not know the bottles contained a nitroglycerine mixture, Wolfmeier said.

Security sources said the man, whom the authorities named as Mohammed Ali Hadamei, is one of two hijackers who seized control of the plane during a flight between Athens and Rome and forced it to fly eventually to Beirut.

The Shi'ite Moslem hijackers killed one of the 153 passengers, a U.S. Navy diver. They released most of the people on board the plane during the first few days of the drama.

But 39 male hostages were held throughout the 17-day ordeal in Beirut, some by Moslem militias, until their transfer and release into U.S. Air Force custody in Damascus on June 30.

Israel later released hundreds of Lebanese prisoners, apparently meeting one of the hijackers' original demands.

U.S. military sources in West Germany said the man's fingerprints matched prints taken after the hijacking.

They said West German police had been given copies of the prints after the hijacking.

Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, announcing the arrest,

said it was a major success in the fight against terrorism.

"The man we captured is a big fish," he told a news conference in Bonn.

Zimmermann later said the discovery of explosives in the man's luggage indicated he was planning a new attack.

Wolfmeier said he had not received any request from the U.S. for the man's extradition but security sources said they expected Washington to ask for the man to be handed over to the U.S. Justice officials.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said at the time of the hijacking that the administration knew who the men were and would "go after them."

Wolfmeier said the man had made a statement saying he intended taking the three wine bottles containing explosive fluid to a man in West Germany.

## Greece paralyzed by strike

ATHENS. — Most of Greece came to a standstill yesterday as about two million workers staged a 24-hour general strike against a tough government austerity programme which includes a wage freeze.

The strike affected almost every sector of the Greek workforce, closing down all public transport and causing electric power blackouts in Athens and other parts of the country.

A mass rally of 30,000 demonstrators outside Parliament denounced Prime Minister Papandreu's socialist government for belt-tightening measures which have denied the workers any real pay increases for more than a year.

Papandreu's government earlier this month announced a 4.1 per cent wage hike for both public and private sector workers that runs far behind Greece's 19.8 per cent inflation rate.

Prices shot up following the introduction of value added tax on goods and services from January 1. The new tax replaces existing tariffs to bring Greece into line with its European Community partners, but economic analysts say it will almost certainly fuel inflation this year.

Greeks also will be paying higher rents from next month because of new government measures regulating property values nationwide. One in four Greeks currently lives in rented accommodation.

The strike grounded virtually all Olympic Airways airliners and most foreign flights were cancelled.

It follows a series of work stoppages in recent months by garbage men, teachers, bank clerks, seamen, pilots and others demanding more money.

The prime minister maintains the government austerity programme is essential if Greece is to cut its record \$3.3 billion current account deficit, lower inflation and reduce foreign debts of more than \$15 billion. (Reuters, AP)

## Turks threaten N.Y. museum with suit

ANKARA (Reuters). — Turkey will start legal action in New York for the return of treasures from the sixth century B.C.E. now in the Metropolitan Museum, a top official said yesterday.

Turkey claims that the treasures which belonged to the fabulously rich King Croesus, the last king of Lydia (now Western Turkey) were smuggled out of the country before they were bought by the museum in 1966.

Culture Minister Mesut Yilmaz said on Wednesday that Turkey had already hired an American law firm that is preparing documents for a suit against the museum.



Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister and new chief arms negotiator Vyacheslav Vorontsov, left, welcomes his U.S. counterpart Max Kampelman at the Soviet mission in Geneva yesterday for a private lunch to open a new round of arms control talks. (Reuters telephoto)

## Where is Hu Yaobang?

## Deng blasts the critics

PEKING (AP). — Senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said yesterday China must remove all obstacles in the path of its socialist development, and he emphasized the crackdown on government critics will not affect China's open door policy or reforms.

Deng's comments were made amid speculation in the Chinese capital that Deng's long-time reformist ally, Party General-Secretary Hu Yaobang, was in political trouble.

Deng told Finnish Communist Party leader Arvo Aalto that there was a trend of advocating "bourgeois liberalization" with which "China's Marxists will not agree." His comments were reported by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Deng's comments backing up the crackdown came amid reports that a major Communist party meeting

was being held, or was to be held to formalize the drive against "enemies" of the party.

There was speculation that the meeting may move to oust Hu, who has not been seen in public in more than two weeks and has been reported to be in political trouble, and replace him with Premier Hao Ziyang.

There has been no hard evidence that Hu's political status is in jeopardy, although Japanese news reports have said Deng has criticized Hu in closed meetings for his handling of the student demonstrations.

The party has said that Hu is in poor health, and the Finnish Embassy said yesterday that Hu would not attend a banquet he was scheduled to host that evening for Aalto, because according to Chinese officials, he was not feeling well.

## Moslem rebel soldiers kill six in Philippines

MANILA (Reuters). — Six people were killed yesterday when Moslem rebel soldiers raided a village as part of a series of attacks to protest President Corason Aquino's visit to the southern island of Mindanao this weekend. Philippine military officials said.

A defence ministry official said two soldiers were among the dead.

The raid was the most violent so far in a series of coordinated attacks staged during the past two days by rebel soldiers of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to protest against the Aquino visit and the government's holding of peace talks with a rival Moslem faction to end a separatist revolt that began in 1972.

In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, MILF chief Salamat Hashim outlined four conditions for a settlement in the southern Philippines.

The demands would ensure "real autonomy" for the Mindanao and "satisfy the aspirations of the people in the region," Hashim said.

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, which reached an agreement with the Philippines government earlier this month to discuss autonomy for 23 provinces in the Mindanao region.

Hashim said that firstly, the land taken away by the "Christian settlers" should be returned to the Moslems.

## IN BRIEF

## N.Y. Mafia suspect killed by gunmen

NEW YORK (AP). — Salvatore Scarpa, an alleged Mafia member, was fatally shot by one of five gunmen who entered a social club and forced the occupants to lie face down on the floor.

When the 10 occupants were down on the floor, the gunmen robbed them of their wallets, money and jewelry, police said.

They said it was not clear if the shooting was Mafia-related.

## Sikh extremists kill Indian army officer

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — Sikh extremists shot dead a senior Indian Army officer and his sister-in-law in the latest reprisal killings in northern Punjab State, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said yesterday.

The news agency said at least 10 suspected extremists burst into a house in Patti Gharia Village near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and gunned down Lieut.-Col. Sant Bhuller and his sister-in-law.

Before escaping the extremists left a note saying Bhuller was killed for taking part in the June 1984 army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

## Danish firm produces insulin from yeast

COPENHAGEN (Reuters). — A Danish-based insulin and enzymes producer, Novo Industries, has announced that it has started to produce human insulin from baker's yeast by genetic engineering at its factory in Kalundborg, Denmark.

Novo, the world's largest producer of industrial enzymes and one of the biggest insulin manufacturers, said it was the first company to use yeast in this way. They said the new method would eventually be cheaper than the current process of making insulin from a pig's pancreas.

## Trident II missile passes first test

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP). — A Trident II submarine missile thundered off a land launch pad yesterday on the successful maiden test flight of the U.S. navy's newest, most powerful rocket.

Scores of anti-nuclear protesters watched as the missile vaulted off the land pad at 10:25 a.m. and darted across clear sky.

A Navy spokesman said the missile launch was "a complete success" as it hurled a dummy warhead to an Atlantic Ocean target several thousand kilometres to the south-east.

The Pentagon has said the missile will be potent and accurate enough to destroy nuclear-hardened missile silos and command centres.

## Iraqis report new raids on Iran

BAHRAIN (Reuters). — Iraq reported more air raids on Iranian cities yesterday as ground forces fought on two fronts 450 kilometres apart on the seventh day of Iran's latest cross-border offensive.

Iraq said it repelled a new attack by two Iranian brigades in the same central sector where a similar assault was crushed yesterday.

Iran, however, said five Iraqi counter-attacks had been repulsed in the area near Sumar, 130km. north-east of Baghdad, with 1,500 Iraqis killed or wounded.

A Baghdad military spokesman said the Iranian cities of Isfahan and Tabriz were attacked from the air today and an Iranian F-14 jet fighter

was downed by Iraqi planes on their way home.

Teheran Radio reported that volunteers from seven Iranian cities left for the war fronts, with the Teheran contingent seen off by "a large crowd of sisters and brothers wearing shrouds...and sacrificing sheep, demanding the continuation of military operations."

An Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander told Teheran Television viewers that current Iranian operations were intended to build up to a "fateful operation to defeat the Iraqi Army."

Diplomatic analysts in the Gulf saw the twin actions as Iranian probing for weak points in Iraq's formidable defence lines, after completion

of preparations for a "decisive offensive" promised by March.

Iran has not yet committed sufficient resources to strike the long-promised "final blow," they said, but noted that Iran is using regular troops in the "Karbala-6" offensive at Samarra.

Teheran says they have recaptured 100 square km. of Iranian territory held by Iraq since the early days of the war in 1980.

Iran's assault forces in southern battles have been mostly Revolutionary Guards of "Basiji" volunteer militiamen. Today, Teheran Radio reported, they were besieging Bovan Island in the Shatt al-Arab waterway near the Iraqi port of Basra.

## Political parties allowed in Chile

SANTIAGO (Reuters). — Chile's military rulers yesterday approved a law permitting the formation of political parties for the first time since the 1973 coup that brought the military to power.

The law was approved by the four-man military junta which acts as the country's legislature under the 1980 constitution.

Marxist parties are specifically excluded under the terms of the constitution, but all others will be allowed providing they can meet the new law's tough conditions.

Political parties have been officially banned since the military overthrew the Marxist government of President Salvador Allende in a bloody coup 13 years ago.

In recent years, however, parties have begun to operate more or less openly, although they have not been allowed to call public meetings.

Details of the 59-clause law were not immediately released, but few changes were expected from a proposed text leaked to the press last week.

According to the text, the law

decrees that to gain legal recognition a party must present a list of members equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the electorate, or some 35,000 people. It also sets out rigid rules for parties' internal organization and bans links with other social or labour groups. Parties cannot receive foreign financing.

The moves were interpreted by diplomats and politicians as designed to improve the military rulers' tarnished international image just a few months before Pope John Paul makes the first papal visit to Chile.

## Pretoria allows U.S. newsman to stay

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — South Africa, which has expelled five foreign newsmen since declaring a state of emergency, yesterday granted a reprieve to a Los Angeles Times correspondent who had been ordered out of the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said that "in view of assurance and undertaking" from the newspaper it was renewing the work permit of correspondent Michael Parks for three months.

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha met Los Angeles Times editors in Cape Town this week.

William Thomas, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, said in a statement, "The assurances I gave the minister are that the Times will continue to strive for the fair and balanced coverage it promised when the South African

government allowed it to open the bureau in Johannesburg 15 years ago."

Last week, the government effectively closed The New York Times's Bureau. Correspondent Alan Cowell was ordered out and his nominated successor refused a permit.

Since the emergency was imposed last June to stamp out black political violence, the government has expelled five newsmen — two Americans, a West German, an Israeli and a Dutch cameraman — and imposed censorship.

It has clamped severe restrictions on reporting of security force action, anti-apartheid boycotts and many events in black townships.

## Afghanistan, Soviet deal on pull-out

KABUL (Reuters). — Afghan leader Najibullah announced yesterday that his government and the Soviet Union had reached an accord paving the way for the full withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Speaking on the first day of a government-proclaimed cease-fire, Najibullah also offered an amnesty to military deserters as part of his campaign to end the eight-year-old civil war between government forces and Moslem rebels.

But all the main guerrilla forces are ignoring the cease-fire and some rebel units have stepped up their operations.

Guerrilla officials have said they will fight until the government is toppled and Soviet troops forced out of Afghanistan.

Guerrillas killed three govern-

ment soldiers early yesterday in the first reported breach of the government's cease-fire, guerrilla sources said.

A group of the Mujahideen rebels carried out the attack near Tor-kham, close to the Pakistani frontier crossing at the Khyber Pass, they said.

Najibullah was addressing a congress of the National Fatherland Front, a pro-government umbrella organization. He cautioned that future moves by Moscow and Kabul would depend directly on the rebel response to his national unity drive.

Front chairman Abdulrahim Hatf told delegates at the congress reports of cease-fire violations by the guerrillas had come in from the Khost region near the Pakistani border.

Asked by Hatf whether govern-

ment forces should take immediate action or wait before responding, dozens of delegates shouted: "Go for them. Go for them."

The cease-fire is part of a national reconciliation plan announced by Najibullah after he held talks with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow last month. The Soviet Union has said it is seeking to expedite the return home of its troops.

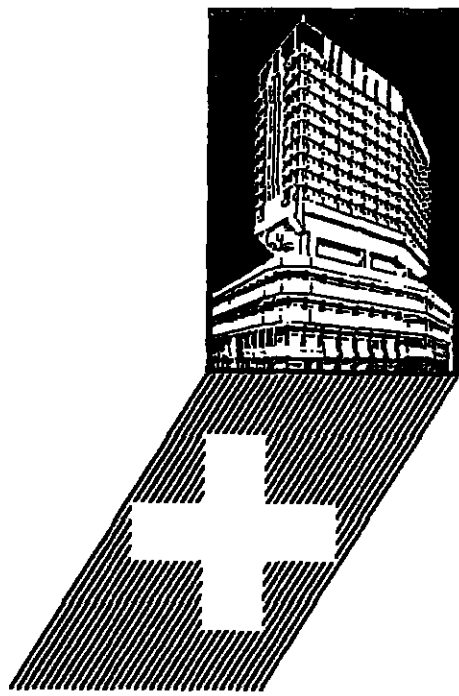
"The Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have reached agreements paving the way for the complete return of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union to their peace-loving country," Najibullah told the congress.

He said future measures taken by the two countries "will directly depend on steps taken by the other side," and declared that the Soviet Union would not abandon Afghanistan if guerrillas aided by external support continued their attacks.

Although he provided no details of the pull-out agreement, analysts said Najibullah's remarks were the first formal confirmation that a joint blueprint had been prepared by Moscow and Kabul for the withdrawal.

Western military experts estimate there are some 115,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Delegates in the hall in the former royal palace in central Kabul included many tribal leaders in turbans and flowing robes from all parts of the country. Behind the palace, Soviet tanks were lined up at a Soviet army base, the main one in central Kabul.



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## 'I've hit rock bottom'

## Rafi Levy appeals detention decision

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rafi Levy, the former Jerusalem District representative, claims that his status has hit "rock bottom." He has no more authority, he says, and fears that he is liable to intimidate witnesses are groundless.

Levy appealed yesterday to the Supreme Court against the Jerusalem District Court decision to keep him in jail until the end of his trial.

In his decision on Monday Judge Shmuel Finkelman ruled that a December 3 letter sent by Levy from his prison cell to his son raised "real fears" that, if released, Levy would "obliterate evidence and threaten witnesses not to testify at this trial."

Levy's trial is scheduled to formally open this morning at the Jerusalem District Court with the reading of the charge sheet. Levy will then enter his plea to 11 charges of extortion, accepting bribes, breach of trust, and foreign currency violations.

The hearing of witnesses and presentation of evidence against Levy will start on February 1 and continue every weekday until February 15. Thereafter, the trial will be held on Sundays and Fridays only.

In yesterday's appeal to the Supreme Court, Levy's attorney, Shlomo Toussia-Cohen, claimed that his client could not possibly suborn witnesses, since all the testimony against him had already been recorded by the police and the two clerical men who are slated to testify for the prosecution have been declared state witnesses.

Toussia-Cohen also maintained that Judge Finkelman erred in disregarding Levy's circumstances when he wrote the December 3 letter. "He was then under 30-day arrest," he said, "feeling that his world had crumbled around him, under unbearable emotional strain. What's more, at that time the police had searched his house and seized many articles, including all of his wife's jewelry and her wedding ring, which was taken off her body."

Toussia-Cohen further claimed that Levy's release was necessary to enable the accused to adequately prepare his defence and review the vast amount of material prepared for his trial. The lawyer said the court could limit Levy's movements and access to other people by ordering the disconnection of his phone or by keeping him under house arrest.

## New Holocaust charge:

## Vatican protected murder squad priest

By WALTER RUBY  
and ERNIE MEYER

The Vatican after World War II protected and promoted a priest who had been a member of a notorious Lithuanian murder squad during the war, Holocaust researchers in the U.S. and Israel have charged.

The priest in question is Zenonas Ignatavicius, who was born on January 1, 1909, in Vilnius, Lithuania. During the years 1941-43 he served as spiritual leader of the men of the 12th Lithuanian Police Battalion, which like the German *Einsatzgruppen*, murdered tens of thousands of Jews in the cities of Kovno, Slutsk and Minsk.

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre has written to the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, demanding that the Vatican undertake an investigation to determine the circumstances under which the priest was appointed later to a high position within the Vatican.

Ignatavicius served as deputy director of St. Casimir College in Rome, and deputy bishop and vicar to the archdiocese for Lithuanian affairs in Rio de Janeiro. The Vatican was also requested to state whether he is still alive.

During Ignatavicius's time with the battalion, Wiesenthal Centre researchers say, he frequently blessed the men of the battalion, telling them that they were "doing God's work." Ignatavicius kept a diary in which he praised the murderous activities of the unit.

After the war, the priest also published a book in which he contended that the battalion did "holy work" in fighting Communism in White Russia.

"We want the Vatican to help us determine if [Ignatavicius] is still alive. We want to know how it was possible for a man who was a member of a murder squad battalion to have risen to important positions within the Vatican. The fact that he served in that murder battalion is no secret. He wrote about it in his own book," Holocaust researcher Marvin Hier told *The Jerusalem Post* in the U.S. yesterday.

The head of the Jerusalem branch of the centre, Efraim Zuroff, also told *The Post* that the commander of all the Lithuanian battalions, Major Antanas Implevicius, had died in the U.S. in the 1970s. The Major had entered the U.S. as a refugee, registering under his own name, Zuroff said.

There is information that Ignatavicius returned to the Vatican and died there several years ago, he added.

## Universities again appeal for aid

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The heads of the country's universities yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Shamir for help, warning him that they were fast running out of money.

Within the next few months two of the most prestigious institutions, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University, would not be able to pay salaries, they told Shamir.

The university heads, led by the Weizmann Institute's president, Prof. Aryeh Dvoretzky, asked for \$38m. in government funds to help with the crisis.

Dvoretzky told Shamir that \$13m. was urgently needed to help the institutions meet their wage bill and \$25m. to help defray their current deficit of \$38m. The universities also have a total accumulated deficit of around \$70m. more than \$50m. of which is owed by the Hebrew University.

Shamir told the professors that he would ask the Treasury to try to help. But he added that, although he was aware of the importance of higher education, the country was in a state of economic distress which made cuts in government aid inevitable.

## Christians to baptismal site

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A record number of Orthodox Christian pilgrims are expected to make the annual pilgrimage to the baptismal site on the Jordan River on Sunday.

The visits to the Jordan, which were stopped by the security forces after the Six Day War because the site was in a sensitive area, were resumed four years ago.

This year, both because of the increasing popularity of the event, and because the Orthodox Christian Epiphany falls on a Sunday, a few thousand pilgrims are expected.

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## Last 'urban scar' to fade in Jerusalem

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The last major urban scar remaining in Jerusalem from the Six Day War, the Mamilla Quarter, will finally begin to fade in the 20th year after that conflict following a long-awaited decision this week by the Jerusalem District Planning Commission.

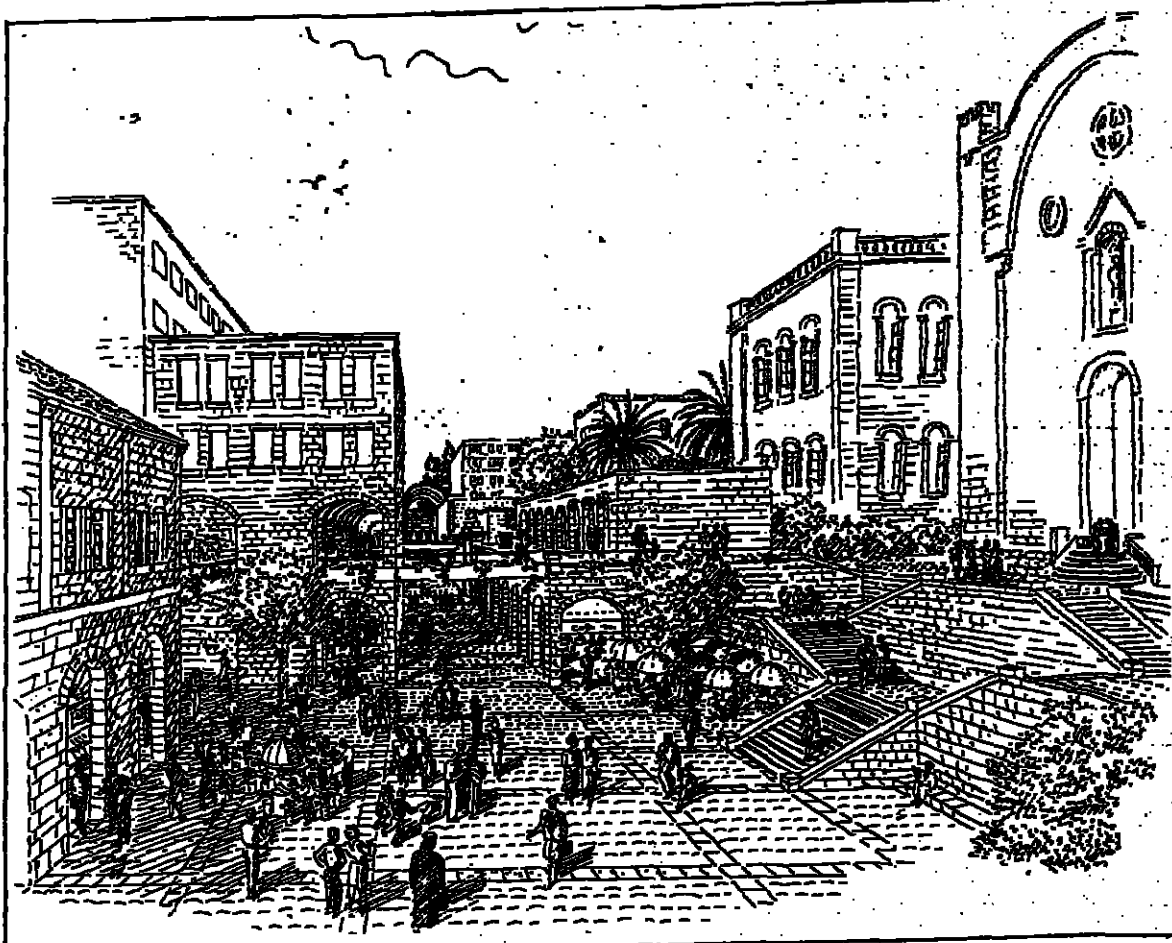
The commission resolved two decades of hemming and hawing over the suitable shape of Mamilla Street by accepting the Jerusalem public's evident desire that the strategically sited street outside Jaffa Gate cling as much as possible to the old century rather than leap blindly into the next.

Instead of sweeping away all structures fronting the 300-metre-long street, as had originally been planned by architect Moshe Safdie, the commission instructed that most of the façades and some of the interiors be preserved.

The quarter, which had been a thriving commercial district before the War of Independence, became an incongruous no-man's-land after it was expropriated by the government in 1970 and some 600 families and businesses were evacuated. Planning indecisiveness has kept Mamilla ever since as a ghost neighbourhood through which people hesitated to walk at night even though it constituted one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the city.

Nissim Abouloff, chairman of Karta, the government-municipality company charged with Mamilla's development, said this week that work should begin on the site this year after Safdie has revised the plan. Before that, however, a financial backer for the project will have to be found. Abouloff said that dozens of investors, including extremely prominent foreign investors, had expressed interest, and that bid proposals were now being formulated.

Two other major elements of the overall Mamilla Plan remain to be approved, but neither is expected to be as controversial as the plan for Mamilla Street itself. One element consists of 230 high-standard housing units to be built on the slope below Hebrew Union College where a garage complex had long stood, and a 500-room five-star hotel on the corner of King David Street and Emek Street now being cut through the area just south of Mamilla Street.



Sketch by Moshe Safdie of proposed Mamilla pedestrian mall. Arcaded commercial galleries are seen fronting present building line. A second storey of shops shown on the right side of the sketch in front of the St. Vincent de Paul Hospice was ordered removed by the District Planning Commission on the grounds that it blocked the view of the hospice. Pedestrian bridges link shopping galleries on opposite sides of the narrowed street.

Emek Street's completion will permit the conversion of Mamilla Street into a pedestrian mall. The plan for the housing and the hotel is to be deposited by the District Planning Commission next month for public reaction.

Still to be submitted to the commission by Safdie is a revised plan for an underground parking and commercial structure just outside Jaffa Gate. An earlier proposal for such a structure was rejected as too ambitious.

It will probably take five years before Mamilla Street begins to function as a pedestrian mall, according to Abouloff. Completion of the rest of the Mamilla redevelopment is expected to take at least another five years. Despite empty

shops in the Clal building in the city centre and proposals to build a large shopping centre at Malkha in the south of the city, Abouloff expressed confidence that the uniqueness of Mamilla's location — a "bridge between the Old City and the new city" — will make it a profitable enterprise.

The commission ruled that Karta must preserve all the façades and some of the interiors along the north side of the street. Two buildings are slated for preservation on the south side, one of them the building in which Theodor Herzl stayed near the turn of the century. It is to be preserved as a museum and the Stern family, who own the furnishings and artifacts associated with Herzl's stay, must vacate the premises at the end of this month and may take these

items with them. The commission ruled that two storeys must be knocked off the six-storey Hebrew University building in the middle of the south side if the developers choose not to demolish the entire building.

The buildings will range in height from seven storeys at the corner of King David Street to three storeys opposite Jaffa Gate. Safdie proposes to narrow most of Mamilla Street by fronting the present building line with an arcaded commercial gallery which will be two storeys for much of its length. Pedestrian bridges will link the second storey galleries on the opposite sides of the street. Third storeys and higher will be used for offices and perhaps even small hotels or hostels.

## Hollywood business surrounded by Jews

By TOM TUGEND  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LOS ANGELES. — "Sure, there's anti-Semitism," said one panellist. "But most of us avoid it by being in a business where we're surrounded by Jews."

The business is making Hollywood films, and five of its more successful practitioners got together at a campus forum to explore their Jewish identity, or lack of it, and how it affects their craft.

Actor Richard Dreyfuss (*Jaws*, *Close Encounters*, *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*), actor Henry Winkler, who raised a whole TV generation as the Fonzie in *Happy Days*, director-actor Paul Mazursky (*Harley and Tonto*, *Moscow on the Hudson*, *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*) and producer Irwin Winkler (*Rocky I, II and III*, *Round Midnight*) met at the Hillel House on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. The moderator was Jeremy Kagan, a rabbi's son and the director-writer of *The Big Fix* and *The Chosen*.

A casting director could hardly have done a better job of selecting the contrasting characters. Not necessarily in order of appearance, there was the Committed Jew, Henry Winkler, whose parents fled Germany in 1939.

"I am very proud of being Jewish," he said with great conviction. "For 5,000 years, no one has found a way to break our spirit."

Mazursky played the Ambivalent Jew. "I don't think of myself as being Jewish," he said. "I think of myself as a person."

Dreyfuss essayed the Liberal Jew, saying "I've always confused being Jewish with being a left-wing New York actor. I had no identity crisis until the '70s, when being left and Jewish were no longer the same."

Producer Irwin Winkler, a thoughtful man not easily classified, grew up in an Orthodox home but recalled that his Jewish growth was stunted at an early age.

The diverse roles, which evolved



Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason pictured in "The Goodbye Girl."

and shifted as the long discussion progressed, yielded some solid points of agreement:

"In Europe, film making may be considered an art form, but in Hollywood it's called the movie business and industry, and for good reason. Any subject is acceptable, if it appeals to a wide enough audience to turn a profit."

Admittedly, the profit motive can be used as a ploy to scuttle proposed films on Jewish themes, but the argument cuts many ways.

"I've been trying to produce a picture based on Nikos Kazantzakis's book *The Last Temptation of Christ*," reported Irwin Winkler. "I've run into more opposition to this than to anything else I've tried, primarily from theatre owners, who worry mainly about box office sales."

Hollywood doesn't need gentle anti-Semites, because "the most prejudice I've seen is by Jews against Jews," said one speaker, as the others nodded in agreement. As a corollary, the panel observed, too many Jews inside and outside Holly-

wood rationalize their own failures by blaming them on anti-Semitism.

Give the overwhelming Jewish presence in the creative side of filmmaking, even supposedly gentle characters reflect Jewish attitudes. "The Fonzie (the Italian-American hero of *Happy Days*) was a Jew," maintained Henry Winkler. "Everything he stood for, his whole mentality, was Jewish."

The panel gave some sober thought to the decline of Jewish humour in America. "For 60 to 70

years we were dominant in comedy and now there's not one Jew among the top comedians," lamented Dreyfuss.

If a film maker does turn out a "serious" Jewish movie, the harshest criticism will likely come from Jews. Older American Jews, especially, hate to see Jews portrayed as somehow "different" as moderator Kagan learned after he released *The Chosen* based on Chaim Potok's novel of life among New York Hassidim.

Mazursky agreed. "Once you start doing serious, contemporary Jewish movies, then you must deal with intermarriage, or with businessmen who may not be ethical. Would you like that?" he challenged the audience.

Mazursky was not only the wittiest participant, but also the one who most strongly reflected the ambivalence of the American Jew. The man who opened the discussion by rejecting Jewish particularism is also the most successful commercial director who has most consistently put on the screen recognizable and three-dimensional Jewish characters in such films as *Next Stop, Greenwich Village*, and *Blume in Love*. Is there a contradiction? No, said Mazursky.

"Our Jewishness is there, but we are also universal," his next goal, he said, was to make a picture based on *Enemies, A Love Story* by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

"It's a good story," Mazursky said, "and that's what you need."

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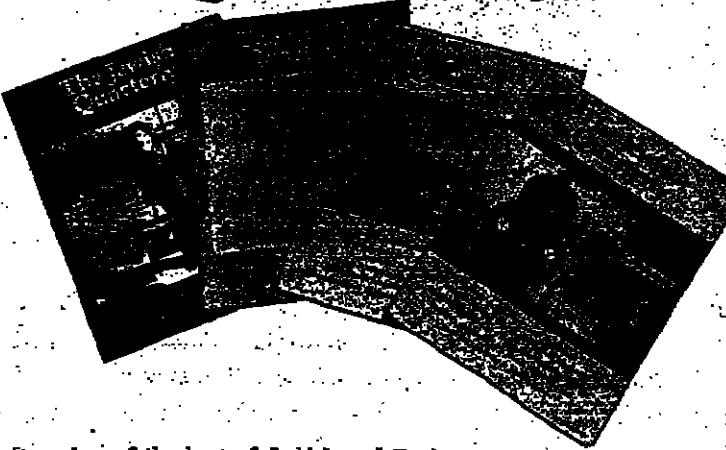
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PEOPLE

IN THIS LARGEST of governments, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav stands out, and not only because of his youth, but because of his personality. With his ready smile, he seems one of its nicest. But behind the smiling exterior lies a steely toughness that enabled him to emerge as one of the victors in the cabinet's budget debate, with his ministry's budget left intact. It's one of the biggest — \$200 million plus the National Insurance Institute's \$900 million, with a workforce of 7,000.

As an administrator, he has earned good marks. The main criticism is his readiness to dish out patronage in hiring personnel reflecting the important lesson he has learned in Herut politics: a pleasant personality is not enough.

Not for nothing is Katsav regarded as Herut's presentable face. His capacity to charm people was one factor in choosing him for the difficult job of chairman of Herut's unfinished convention presidium. This son of an Iranian immigrant family typifies Herut's success (and Labour's failure) in recruiting and advancing authentic — and university-educated — representatives of the "Second Israel." When he entered the Knesset as its youngest member in 1977, Katsav was the first chairman of a development town (Kiryat Malachi) to become a national political figure. Many see him as Premier Shamir's answer to David Levy, and destined for even higher office.

MOSHE KATSAV and his family represent a Zionist success story. He has no hang-ups about his background, as do some of his contemporaries. It is the family tradition that they reached the central Persian town of Jazd after the destruction of the Second Temple. Their name indicates the family trade of butcher. Moshe is the eldest son and was born in Jazd, as was his first brother. Their six siblings were all born here after their parents came on aliya in 1951.

They arrived at the Kasma ma'abara for the worst winter on record. The old British army huts and tents of the transit camp were flooded and the family was evacuated to Kfar Bihu. Five-year-old Moshe became seriously ill and was rushed to a military hospital. It was during that winter that he lost a baby brother.

In 1977, when I first met the late Yigael Yadin, he revealed that the decision to mobilize the army medical corps to help the ma'abarot population was taken by two people — David Ben-Gurion and himself, the CGS," Katsav related.

His father was actually a pedlar back in Jazd, and shared the lot of other unskilled immigrants on coming to Israel. Until he recently reached pension age he was a watchman at a factory in Kiryat Malachi. Despite their modest circumstances, the parents encouraged their children to better themselves through education. One brother recently moved to Jerusalem,

where he is a senior bank official; three sisters are teachers; the younger brother is an army officer; and the youngest sister is at high school.

THE YOUNG minister is very much a family man, returning home nightly to his wife and five children, 16-year-old twins, a boy and a girl, and three more sons. After the local primary school, Katsav was sent to the Ben-Shemen youth village. Katsav remembers his two years there with nostalgia.

"That was where I got my big break. It was there I acquired values and concepts that have moulded my character. It was there I learned to work hard. For a youth of 15 to get up at 3 a.m. to milk cows — that's a lasting experience."

The teenager completed high school at the Beer-Tuvia regional school, where he made lasting friendships with moshav youth. He served in the IDF in the Armoured and Signal Corps, emerging as a *rav-nuri* (corporal). After the army, he worked as an assistant to a researcher at the Volcani Institute and at the same time was a local stringer for *Yediot Aharonot*.

Then he went to the Hebrew University to study economics and history, graduating in two years instead of the usual three. By then he was already involved in politics, having worked for the Likud in the 1965 elections.

"I was drawn to Herut's ideas and its social and economic programme. I was influenced by Menachem Begin especially after reading his book *The Revolt*," he says.

After the Six Day War he joined the party, and in 1969 did well at the head of the Likud list for the local council elections. At 24 he was the youngest council chairman in the country. However, the local coalition soon broke up and he was ousted from the chairmanship.

He spent the next four years as a teacher of mathematics and history at the Shafir regional high school, a rare example of a secular teacher in a state religious school.

IN THE 1973 local elections, Katsav made a triumphant come-back, remaining council chairman until 1981, as well as being an MK. After the 1981 elections, Begin appointed him deputy housing minister under David Levy, who let him show his mettle in running Project Renewal which became a Likud electoral trump card in 1984.

The two men did not get on well, with Levy jealously watching the rise of this younger star in the party's firmament.

Katsav's popularity surfaced during the internal jockeying over the Likud list in 1984. When he became a member of the national unity government, he soon applied the experience he had learned as Levy's deputy. His own first deputy was Agudat Yisrael's Menachem Porush. "We didn't get on, so I got rid of him," he says.

Moshe Katsav: a profile by Mark Segal

# Herut's presentable face



WHEN WE discussed the influence of the ma'abarot on the development of children like himself, he confirmed that there was a residual resentment.

"You see, everyone who comes on aliya wonders what will happen to them and where will they stand in society. Most of my parents' generation enjoyed a higher status in the Diaspora. They sacrificed themselves for us children. I doubt whether I would be

a minister today but for their sacrifice."

And the political ramifications?

"I can speak for Kiryat Malachi, with its harsh social and economic reality. That certainly influenced their political choice."

He acknowledges his own feelings of communal discrimination, but emphasizes that "they are an entirely subjective matter. Luckily, I've never been bothered by such problems. Generally speaking, I be-

lieve that communal tensions are on the wane. We have a new generation that is entirely Israeli. What with education and increasing inter-communal marriage, these feelings of tension are disappearing."

He himself embodies these characteristics. His wife, Gila, is the daughter of Third Aliya immigrants from Poland and Russia. She has learned to cook traditional Persian Jewish dishes from his mother, and when they visit her mother in Tel Aviv, he eats her gefilte fish and cholent.

He gave great credit to the Likud for the decline in inter-communal tensions, arguing that during its rule, the Oriental communities "took their rightful place under the sun and obtained their share of power." But he considers that the social gap had narrowed not so much between Sephardim and Ashkenazim, as between those who came to Israel before 1948 and those who immigrated afterwards.

THE MINISTER arrived slightly late for his appointment, explaining that he had been delayed by the session of the party members' court of honour, which had been dealing with the question of reassembling the Likud's inconclusive convention of last March. He was doing his utmost to reconvene the conference, which he hoped would be this March.

Asked how the party's factions differed, Katsav replied: "It's a matter of personalities. Nothing ideological."

Didn't these factional rumblings present a serious challenge to Shamir's primacy?

There is agreement about his leadership; the issue is who will be Number Two. Who should it be?

As chairman of the presidium, I'm unable to make any comment. But I don't see the point really in the fight right now over the Number Two position."

Only once during the interview did Katsav hint at impatience. This was in reply to the query whether he might be in the running for the position himself.

"I do not have such aspirations. And I didn't say that to be nice. Admittedly I have been approached by many comrades, but I've turned them all down."

Could one judge the balance of power in the party by the elections to convention posts? To this Katsav replied with some emotion:

There's no knowing yet. Everything is speculation. When I defeated Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar for the presidium chairmanship, and Arik Sharon beat Benny Begin for the convention mandates committee, that proved nothing about the balance of power."

How did he react to Sharon's "happening" at the beginning of this week? His reply was terse and vague: "I was not against. It's only natural he should have organized it."

Who paid for all the buses bringing in the thousands? "I don't know." And Levy's

tirade? "I heartily regret that the deputy premier turned down the compromise proposals. Nonetheless, I will persist in my efforts to find common ground between all concerned, so as to make the convention possible."

THE MINISTER relished his victory in the big budget battle when his allocations were not touched, although those of the other two social spending ministries — education and health, both in Labour hands — sustained severe cutbacks.

He found this responsiveness to his ministry's needs very welcome in view of the impossible budgetary strait-jacket that had been constraining it in the past two years. He was particularly happy that the Treasury scissors had not cut into allocations for old-age pensions and vocational training schemes.

The young Herut leader has strong views on the subject of deepening secular-religious tensions, perhaps because his own wife is from a Gur Hassidic background, and their children all attend religious schools.

The only encounter on common ground between the two sectors, he says, is in the army. "By then their prejudices based on ignorance of each other have crystallized. That's why I'm for a radical reform of our school systems. We must merge the state education and the state religious school systems, retaining secular and religious trends. Thereby we will foster understanding and mutual tolerance."

Katsav is very angry at the Reform movement, blaming them for growing extremism among the Orthodox.

"I find it inconceivable that a group should set itself up to challenge the halachic authorities. They endanger the unity of our people. Their rabbis perform joint marriage ceremonies with priests. I believe that they cause increasing assimilation in the Diaspora," he declared emphatically. However, he proceeded to balance his criticism by taking Israel's Orthodox leadership to task "for having turned in upon themselves, ignoring new developments in the Jewish people. They are unready to make the effort to ensure a more outgoing leadership. Moreover, the deepening divisions in the religious world cause each group to display a more fanatical approach."

Katsav strictly toed the party line on Judea and Samaria: there was absolutely no conflict between the funds poured into the settlements there and the lack of funds for development towns.

"The government must supply services to all of its citizens. If a road is required for security reasons, we have to build it. And the people who settle there, they have to have homes and schools and kindergartens. It's quite untrue that housing in Judea and Samaria is that much cheaper than in development towns."

FORMER Bank Leumi chief Ernest Japhet has reportedly denied by phone that his super-luxury presidential suite at the exclusive Lombardy Hotel in Manhattan costs around \$42,000 per month. Pity about his denial, for then at least, we'd know why he originally asked for \$60,000 a month. Even if his denial is true, and he only pays a measly \$200 per day, it may be said in his favour that, unlike globe-trotting members of the Jewish Agency executive such as chairman Arye Dubin and information head Uzi Narkiss, he's paying for it out of his own bank account. Incidentally, I've failed to learn whether his millions in severance pay are deposited here or there.

No one should forget that it was neither Examiner of Banks Galla Maoz, nor any member of the Knesset Finance Committee who first unveiled the scandal. It was Tel Aviv University Professor Arye Globerson, whose report on bank directors' salary levels was at the time dismissed as beyond belief.

As all the publicity-seekers jump on the *gevalt* (band)-wagon, it may be worthwhile heeding President Chaim Herzog's cautionary words about overstepping the line of criticism: "We must make sure not to chuck out the baby with the bath water. We cannot afford damage to such a major financial instrument."

ALL THOSE conflicting signals emanating from the White House about tiny Israel pressuring mighty America into Iranite, conjure up the scene of a little Israeli tug-boat captained by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, schlepping a huge U.S. aircraft carrier run by Donald Regan and Ed Meese who help keep President Ronald Reagan's hands on the wheel, into the Iranian Gulf.

SOME Shamir-watchers consider the government's packaging of the remnants of the economic programme as highlighting the secret of his survivability. He lets others handle tough decisions. Thus Peres was left to conduct the marathon attrition economy talks — and take the blame should things go wrong.

Q. Who came out best? A. Shamir and Peres kept their government going. Finance Minister Moshe Nisim stayed afloat; the Alignment's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin kept his budget intact, as did Likudnik Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav. And worst? Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon.

SHAMIR got a present this week — a bronze bust of himself sculpted by Miri Margolin, aunt of Ambassador to the UN Biyanyan (Bibi) Netanyahu. When asked whether it would be placed in his office, Shamir replied: "One Shamir is enough in this place." On view there at present is a bust of the late U.S. president John F. Kennedy — a present from Senator Edward Kennedy — placed between signed portraits of Ronald Reagan and Menachem Begin.

U.S. envoy Richard Murphy praised Shamir by asking how he liked his red pullover. "Do you feel cold?" asked his host. "No," was the reply.

## Manhattan transfer soaks up pension



GAD YA'ACOBI



EZER WEIZMAN



ARIEL SHARON

### Public Faces Mark Segal

"but I heard that Dava described me as a drab diplomat, so I thought I'd live up to my image," Shamir quipped: "Just the right colour for Dava."

AFTER Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy's tirade and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's happy happening, it would seem that Herut's theme song is *Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better*. Granted that Arik's Yisrael Katz put on the biggest show in town, but who paid for the fleet of buses which brought in all those thousands?

PERES'S Italian weekend ended in Jerusalem where he and wife Sonya held a dinner at the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel in honour of Italian Deputy Premier Arnaldo Forlani and a delegation of Christian Democratic de-

puties led by faction chief Mario Usellini. Guests included Transport Minister Haim Corfu, MKs Eliahu Ben-Elissar and Shmua Dinitz, foreign ministry political director-general Yossi Beilin, JNF chairman Moshe Rivlin, Ashkelon mayor Eli Dayan, Diplomatic Corps doyen, Guatemalan Ambassador Ramiro Asturias and Italian Ambassador Giovanni Dominico.

Some hours earlier Peres flew back from the Rome convention of the Social Democrats in a plane chartered by his hosts. Carefully observing Shabbat, he walked for an hour in bitter cold to aid from the

hall where some 6,000 delegates gave him a standing ovation.

OUR MKS do have a tough life — take the Knesset Interior Committee, whose members investigated Tel Aviv night life last week. I gather that some intrepid committee members, including Shas's deputy Social Services minister Rabbi Rafael Pinhas and Poalei Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Verdiger, ventured out to the Tel Baruch beach to study problems of prostitution at close quarters. Pity we have no tape of their conversation with all those "working

girls." Was it a case of the oldest profession encountering the second oldest (politics)?

IT SOUNDS like a trailer for *Soap* — will Gad Ya'acobi really quit the Economics and Planning Ministry for the Washington embassy if asked nicely and jointly by Shamir and Peres? Is coalition executive chairman Rafi Edri already trying out his ministerial suit in readiness for the vacant cabinet seat? Is it true that the source of rumours pooh-poohing Ya'acobi's Washington prospects comes from the vicinity of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, whose lack of affection for Edri is famous?

I've been assured that MK Eliahu Speiser is not a figment of the imagination of Deputy Knesset Speaker Dov Ben-Meir. Although formally the Knesset economics committee chairman, he makes as much impact there as at the Histadrut membership payments office, although as chairman, he gets a car and driver. Right now Speiser, wearing his third hat as Labour's Tel Aviv branch secretary, is trying to bury Ben-Meir's chances of becoming again the city's deputy mayor. Aware of how close Mayor Shlomo (Chich) Lahat is to his rival, Speiser is doing his best to scuttle a Labour deal with Chich for the next city elections. This week he even made known he's asking Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman to run for City Hall. When I sought Ezer's comment, he said: "It's a compliment, but I'm too busy dealing with national garbage."

SOME YEARS back Lady Shirley Porter, leader of the Westminster City Council and wife of Tel Aviv University international board chairman Sir Leslie Porter, earned herself the nickname of "Lady of the

Loos" by endowing a £50,000 fund for the cleanest toilets on the TAU campus. She even convened fellow TAU governors in a campus toilet. What was left unclear: who would get the prizes — the users or the cleaners?

Although the financial endowment has since dried up, the cleanliness prizes have become an annual event. Last week the prizes were awarded in a ceremony at which outgoing director-general David Leviathan welcomed his successor Na'aman Gur. The winners: the Sir Isaac Wolfson building (Faculty of Engineering); the Moshe Sharet building (Education); and the students' dormitories.

FOR YEARS critics have been saying that Habimah plays Yiddish in Hebrew, and this week the national theatre paid its tribute to Yiddish theatre, with Luba Buloff, widow of the great Yiddish actor Joseph Buloff as guest of honour. Her husband was saluted at a Joseph Buloff evening at Beth Hatefutsot's Bnei Zion hall on the publication of his biography in Hebrew *From the Old Market*. Ma'ariv editor emeritus Shalom Rosenfeld, who's done more to keep Yiddish alive than most people, related that Buloff's archives are now at Harvard University after TAU turned them down.

Malka Lesser, long-time communications director at the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel, is one of the 15 staffers from the Sheraton chain's 480 hotels to be honoured at its 50th anniversary celebrations in Hawaii. With her are hotel's general manager Dieter Geisthardt and his wife Nicole. Sheraton Corporation chairman John Kapiolotas remembers her when he was Tel Aviv Sheraton general manager in 1965.

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# Syria, Israel edging near brink of war

A Syrian action or provocation could trigger a heavy Israeli response. Gideon Rafael warns that this would lead to a war of unknown dimensions and consequences.

WHILE THE past year saw the Iran-Iraq war continue to dominate the Middle East scene in terms of its military vehemence and political consequence, 1987 may see the emergence of another regional epicentre. In the last four decades the simmering Syrian-Israeli conflict has exploded four times into full-scale war. In between, border clashes, air battles, artillery exchanges, terrorist actions and a short but sharp military encounter in eastern Lebanon in 1982 have fanned the flames. Each war frustrated the prospects of a peaceful settlement and accelerated the arms race.

The intensity of the confrontation between Syria and Israel depends not only upon each side's actions, but also on the omissions and commissions of their respective superpower allies. The indifference manifested by the Soviet Union and the United States to the innovations introduced into the Middle Eastern warfare, such as the battle use of poison gas by Iraq, manufactured

with the assistance of West European industries, and the launching by Iran of Soviet-supplied missiles against urban populations, have a direct and ominous effect on the military planning of Syria and Israel.

For several years, the Syrian army has been equipped with short-range Soviet-made surface-to-surface missiles which it fired sparingly at military targets during the Yom Kippur war. Since then, the Soviet Union has supplied Syria with longer range and more accurate models, capable of hitting urban centres in Israel. Moreover, reliable sources report that Syria has acquired chemical warfare equipment and is adapting missile warheads for the discharge of poison gas.

Flash-points on both sides are abundant: imprudent Syrian troop movements, interference with Israeli aerial surveillance of Lebanon, losses incurred by Syrian-sponsored terrorist activity in the security zone, terrorist actions against Israeli targets, such as the attempt planned



by Syria to blow up an El Al passenger plane in mid-air. Any such action is liable to provoke heavy Israeli retaliation. This could trigger another Arab-Israeli war of hitherto unknown dimensions and consequences.

The immensity of the threat created by the addition of medium-range missiles and chemical weapons to Syria's arsenal, to be used when it has attained what it calls "strategic parity" with Israel, is not likely to deter war but to precipitate it.

President Assad's threat, made in a speech on February 27, 1986, "History will record how the Golan

became the apex of the Holocaust for the Israelis" - can no longer be dismissed by Israel as idle bluster. On the contrary, the threat to inflict a new holocaust on a people which has arisen out of the ashes of the Nazi fire-storm and to confront the survivors of the gas chambers with the menace of poison gas, is an unspeakable monstrosity, incensing not only the emotions of all Israelis but forging their determination to counter the threat with all possible means.

The cry of the gouged Samson "Let me die with the Philistines," when he brought their temple down

and perished together with them in its ruins is deeply embedded in the memory of the Jewish people. In the more prosaic terms of recent foreign press speculations, it could mean that the next war between Syria and Israel could degenerate into a contest of chemical versus radiation weapons. The spectre of such a catastrophe, with its global implications, hardly leaves humanity indifferent.

THE MILITARY and political involvement of the Soviet Union in Syria and the commitment of the U.S. to the security of Israel have

prompted both in the past not only to stand by their allies, but also to beware of being dragged into a dangerous confrontation.

In every major conflagration of the Arab-Israeli conflict the U.S. and the USSR, after watching attentively the battle fortunes of their allies, intervened jointly and decisively to quench the fires of war. Every full-scale Arab-Israeli war has ended with a cease-fire injunction of the Security Council, imposed upon the two parties by the consensus of the two superpowers.

The acquisition of arms of mass destruction, the heightened combat

readiness of masses of troops, the deepening distrust and Israel's narrow margin of security, may touch off a conflagration of such fierceness that even a fast moving American-Soviet fire brigade may be powerless to extinguish, before the ferocity of the fighting has passed the point of no return. In the face of such staggering stakes, the routine practices of crisis management have become obsolete. The risks must be confronted at a very early stage.

The most logical way, of course, would be for the two warring states to adopt risk reducing measures. But in the Middle East, logic and reasonableness have become rare collectors' items. In the absence of any prospect of rational discourse between Syria and Israel, only the U.S. and the Soviet Union have the power, when acting together, to stop the conflicting partners poised at the brink of the abyss.

Even at a time not propitious for an American-Soviet accommodation on the central global issues dividing them, they must face, in their own interest, their responsibility for the fate of a region in which they are both deeply involved and committed.

The two powers have lost much valuable time and energy by sparring in the Middle Eastern arena. They must engage in discussions, without further delay, in discussions to avert one of the most serious threats to regional and global peace and security. It is up to them to initiate persuasive steps to restrain Syria from acts of provocation liable to trigger retributive or pre-emptive Israeli action. Both sides must be made aware that no circumstances tolerate another war or the crossing of the threshold of conventional warfare.

Once the two rivals become convinced of the firm determination of the U.S. and the USSR jointly to confront the offender, they will realize that war is not inevitable but that peace is indispensable for their ultimate security. Israel, which reached that conclusion long ago, is waiting for its adversaries to follow suit.

The writer was formerly ambassador to the UN, and director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

## Irangate: can Israel survive a 'big three' bombshell?

Wolf Blitzer  
Washington

YOSSI BEILIN, the Foreign Ministry's director-general for political affairs, appeared somewhat reassured this week about the mood in Washington following several days of talks with senior U.S. officials. Interviewed at the Israeli Embassy, Beilin insisted that there had been "no finger-pointing" at Israel because of its role in the Iran arms affair.

He said that Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost told him that the Reagan administration had no intention of making Israel a scapegoat for the controversy. And on Tuesday, the State Department spokesman said: "Israel does not make decisions for the U.S. government. We make our own decisions and accept responsibility for our own actions."

But Israeli officials recognize that despite these public assurances, Israel's problems on the American front are by no means over. In fact, one experienced Israeli official even predicted that they were "really just

beginning." He said that Israel should brace itself for some more "bombshells" once the three main Americans involved in the affair end their silence and agree to testify before the special U.S. prosecutor and the Congressional panels investigating the affair.

The three - the former national security adviser, Vice Admiral John Poindexter, his deputy, Lt. Col. Oliver North, and retired U.S. Air Force General Richard Secord - have so far refused to talk, citing their Constitutional rights against self-incrimination. But eventually, they will present their recollections of who knew what and when, most likely, after obtaining immunity from possible criminal prosecution.

Before they were dismissed from their jobs in the White House on November 25, Poindexter and North did cooperate with the administration's initial internal investigation into the affair. It was during that informal inquiry that Attorney General Edwin Meese and other U.S. officials first discovered the Contra connection to the Iran arms sales.

During that round of questioning, both Poindexter and North were very specific in pinning much of the blame on Israel - for almost every-

thing. And they were most pointed in criticizing the role played by Amiram Nir, the adviser to then-prime minister Shimon Peres. It was Nir who in January 1986 replaced Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche as chief Israeli liaison to the National Security Council on matters concerning Iran.

According to the North and Poindexter versions of what happened, it was Israel which somehow talked the U.S. into getting involved with Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar, a supposed "moderate." But Ghorbanifar, according to widely-published press reports in the U.S., was later discovered to be a habitual liar. The New York Times reported that he flunked a CIA lie detector test.

BUT HOW could a small country like Israel manage to talk the most powerful superpower into selling arms to Iran? Richard Cohen, a Washington Post columnist, suggested that many Reagan administration officials involved in the affair actually suffered from "Israel envy." According to Cohen, there are many officials, "especially in the military and intelligence fields," who are actually "swooning fans" of Israel.

"To them, Israel is a democracy that can still act quickly, that can still

keep a secret, that can - as it recently did - snatch a fugitive scientist by making him an offer he apparently could not refuse: a night in Rome with a blonde. Here is the country of Entebbe - that dashing, almost miraculous rescue of hostages in faraway Uganda. Here is the feisty little country that keeps a whole region at bay, whose intelligence service, the Mossad, has a legendary reputation - so legendary, in fact, that journalists routinely ask the Israeli Embassy here questions about our own government. The Israelis, after all, are supposed to know everything."

Robert McFarlane, the former national security adviser who was originally involved with Israel in advancing the Iranian initiative in the summer of 1985, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in open session that his great mistake was in thinking that the American "body politic" could accept a sophisticated, hardnosed policy of dealing with terrorists along the lines of Israel. The American public, he said, does not have Israel's stomach for such necessary but ugly policies. McFarlane failed to appreciate the difference between America and Israel.

Ultimately, of course, President Reagan and his administration will have to take full responsibility for accepting the policy of swapping

arms for American hostages in Lebanon, even if Israel first came up with the idea. But there is little doubt that many senior Reagan administration policy-makers will still remain bitter toward Israel for helping to get the U.S. involved in the entire affair.

ISRAEL'S role in the Iran operation "has become a source of lively controversy within the administration, and within the Senate committees," diplomatic correspondent Bernard Gwertzman wrote in The New York Times. He said that several State Department officials "have privately expressed sharp criticism" of the Israeli government's efforts "to convince the U.S. that the Iranian intermediary, the arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar, could be trusted."

A State Department official said: "The Israelis had their own agenda with Iran, and they drew us into it. Whether they were tricked by the Iranians is for them to answer."

One very serious allegation heard in Washington in recent weeks is that Israel deliberately misled the U.S. about the prospects of winning the hostages' release. The charge - flatly denied by Israeli officials - is that Israel wanted to exploit Reagan's fixation over the hostages in order to win America's authorization for

Israeli arms sales to Iran, which, under the Shah, had been a major Israeli customer. For Israel, there was supposedly the prospect of lucrative weapons exports, with America's blessings.

There is also considerable criticism from members of the Senate and House intelligence committees that the administration did not do any preliminary check into Israel's "hidden agenda" before getting involved in the affair. Perhaps, a devious Israel was providing the U.S. with sophisticated "disinformation" about Iranian "moderates," some of these critics have charged.

These are very serious allegations which may yet surface publicly in the coming weeks and months.

The Washington Post's Walter Pincus, who has been covering the Iran-Contra affair, said that by the end of December 1985, the Reagan administration had decided to abandon the entire policy, deeply disappointed that all the American hostages in Lebanon had not been released. But on January 17, Reagan signed his intelligence "finding" authorizing yet more sales of weapons to Iran. According to Pincus, "the real impetus" for restarting the programme came on January 2, 1986, when Nir met with Poindexter and North "and proposed eliminating

the Israeli businessmen and starting over again.

An "action memorandum" which accompanied the January 17 "finding" described the entire Iran initiative as "the Israeli plan." The memo, prepared by North and signed by Poindexter, opened this way: "Prime Minister Peres of Israel secretly dispatched his special adviser on terrorism with instructions to propose a plan by which Israel, with limited assistance from the U.S., can create conditions to help bring about a more moderate, government in Iran."

"The Israelis are very concerned that Iran's deteriorating position in the war with Iraq, the potential for further radicalization in Iran, and the possibility of enhanced Soviet influence in the Gulf all pose significant threats to the security of Israel. They believe it is essential that they act to at least preserve a balance of power in the region. The Israeli plan is premised on the assumption that moderate elements in Iran can come to power if these factions demonstrate their credibility in defeating Iran against Iraq and in deterring Soviet intervention."

Those are lofty goals which somehow wound up getting distorted. Israel will no doubt wind up paying a price for this.

## Time to take the army out of Christmas

Haim Shapiro

ON SUNDAY evening, the country's Armenian community will celebrate its Christmas in Bethlehem, the third Christian celebration of the Nativity of the year. And, as in previous years, one may expect that a heavy blanket of security will surround the celebration. Soldiers will undoubtedly close Manger Square to traffic and visitors to the Church of the Nativity will be searched before they enter that shrine of Christendom, as they were when the Greek Orthodox observed their Christmas on January 7 and when the Western Churches held their celebrations on December 25.

The Greek Orthodox and the Armenians enjoy little of the media coverage that the Western Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem receive every year. But it is perhaps for this very reason that one may focus on them to ask questions about the efficacy of the security arrangements.

These arrangements seem to have expanded year by year, especially for the celebrations on December 24 and 25. Tourists in particular are forced to switch to special buses. They are searched when they board these buses, each of which carry soldiers in full battle gear. When

they arrive in Bethlehem, they are searched again, often after a wait in line of an hour or more.

Those who attend the Midnight Mass in St. Catherine's adjoining the Church of the Nativity, are subjected to yet another body search, as are those who wish to enter the Church of the Nativity itself at any time throughout the day.

THIS YEAR, the army also conducted house-to-house searches. This prompted Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, one of the country's moderate Arab Leaders, to observe bitterly that perhaps it would be better to cancel the Christmas festivities altogether rather than subject the local population to such indignities.

An army spokesman said in a sanctimonious response to Freij's comments that ironically, it was in order to ensure that Freij would have a happy Christmas that such precautions were taken.

If that were really the reason, perhaps Freij is right and a quieter, less hectic celebration, one that could appeal to the real religious pilgrims who come to Bethlehem, would be more in keeping with the spirit of the festival.

But one senses that nobody - not the army, the Churches, or the tourist authorities - is really interested in making the holiday more subdued. Meanwhile, the foreign media

have an annual field day.

Vivid reports of soldiers with submachine-guns and TV shots of patrolling soldiers feature prominently in the reports of Christmas in Bethlehem.

An increasing number of Christian clerics, not all of them even hostile to Israel, have taken to comparing the situation today to that which prevailed at the time of the birth of Jesus. The land was occupied then and it is occupied now, they say. Soldiers patrolled the streets then, and they do so today as well.

Anyone who has not got the point need only watch the Midnight Mass as it is transmitted by Israeli television. Serried ranks of Israeli officers occupy the first rows in the church, visibly fighting off boredom, while the faithful crowd in behind.

It may be an unfair message. The officers are there in accordance with status quo arrangements that pre-date the establishment of the state. But that isn't the message conveyed to the viewer.

IS IT ALL necessary? Is there really such a great need for a visible military presence? Must visitors really suffer what amounts to harassment in order to visit a shrine they consider holy on a day that is sacred to them?

If you think so, perhaps you ought

to look at another Christian holiday observed in the Holy Land - Easter. On Good Friday, thousands of pilgrims make their way from abroad to the Old City of Jerusalem and march along the Via Dolorosa carrying crosses. No one bothers to search them. The streets are open to the public, although the police do put up barriers to allow the processions to move along without interference.

The following day, thousands more crowd into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the Greek Orthodox Holy Fire ceremony. No one searches the pilgrims or makes them stand in line for hours. All through the proceedings there is a certain amount of pushing and shoving. More people want to participate than there is room for. But there are no soldiers on rooftops, no house-to-house searches, and if there are press reports, they describe the pilgrims, the processions, the celebrations, and not a state of siege.

ANOTHER recent event could also be compared with the Christmas proceedings. This was the visit of New York's archbishop, John Cardinal O'Connor. The cleric was surrounded by crowds and TV cameras wherever he went. But here, too, there were no soldiers on the rooftops, no body searches.

But surely if someone had thrown a bomb at this most prominent of Roman Catholic leaders, the media

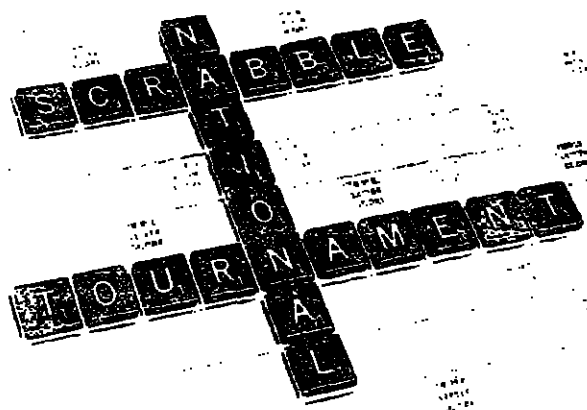
effect would have been just as great as a bomb at Christmas. The difference, one must assume, is that the army has got its Christmas scenario down pat; that it is a matter of routine rather than necessity.

This is probably the reason that even the Armenian Christmas, which is sacred as it is to the members of that community, is unknown to the world at large; also, enjoys a security blanket that far exceeds what is warranted.

For those who are curious as to why Christmas has become a three-ring circus of guns and uniforms, while Easter is relatively unaffected, the answer is simple. The Christmas festivities take place in Bethlehem, where security is in the hands of the army. The entire Easter observance is in Jerusalem, where the police are responsible for security. Each force handles things in its own way.

A bomb at Christmas would certainly be a tragedy, just as a bomb at any time of the year is a tragedy. But this still does not explain the heavy-handed security precautions that have made Christmas an annual blot on Israel's reputation.

It may be too late to call off the body searches for the small number of the faithful who attend the Armenian Christmas celebrations this Sunday night. But it is not too soon to begin planning for next year's Christmas festivities and a saner approach to security.



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הכרזה מן האוכל



The absorption of Ethiopian immigrants in Northern Galilee has run into a number of problems. One of the most serious is that these Jews would much prefer to be with their families in the centre of the country. The Jerusalem Post's D'vora Ben Shaul investigates the situation of these immigrants and finds they are seriously disgruntled over the prospects facing them in the North.



## Where do we go from here?



THERE ARE a thousand Ethiopian immigrants in Northern Galilee and almost without exception they want to be somewhere else. They want to be in Petah Tikva, Ra'anana or even Afula, but not in Safad, Tiberias or Katzrin.

The reason they want to be elsewhere is multi-faceted but none the less real. While not the only obstacle to their absorption, its desire is one of the more serious.

The first reason for their discontent is that almost all have family in the centre of the country. Having lived all their lives in a village constructed on the tribal system, the family for Ethiopian Jews is all important. In addition to this, most of them have left good part of their family behind in Africa, a fact that makes separation from family members here almost unbearable.

A second factor is that Galilee provides few work possibilities or the hope of elevating their present status. Unskilled workers doing menial work for a meagre salary. They look on their relatives and friends in the centre of the country with envy and ask why they cannot share this good fortune.

A third reason is the climate. Many of the ex-Ethiopians have suffered from the physiological adaptation to the cold winters in the centre where they live, and places like Hatzor and other development towns where they work. In this issue,

those in Tiberias are far more comfortable.

The Ministry of Absorption has no declared policy vis-a-vis this desire for relocation. When the Ethiopian immigrants press them, they make a list so that everyone who wants to be relocated can sign up. But in fact the ministry has no intention of relocating these immigrants for reasons easy to understand. There are some 500 government flats standing vacant in Safad but practically none in the centre of the country. The fact that these flats are unoccupied because there is no work in the area seems to go unnoticed.

Promising they will deal with each case on its own merits the ministry, instead of telling the immigrants that this is the only flat they will get for at least five years, stalls them with vague half-promises.

This results, obviously, in a situation where even those who do have a job feel themselves to be temporary workers and they therefore lack the motivation that would lead to better job performance and increased work ability. The factory owner also is affected, feeling it is not worth his while to invest in training someone who will be leaving soon. In consequence the Ethiopian olim, with rare exceptions, remain at the level they started. Unskilled labour.

Now and again, as might be expected, an Ethiopian immigrant goes to Petah Tikva or some other town in the centre, finds himself a

job and while staying with a relative, applies to the ministry for housing for his wife and children still in the north. In these cases, according to Yoram Abergil, in charge of Ethiopian immigrant absorption at the ministry, they usually get what they want and resettle in the centre of the country.

"This," says Abergil, "while a natural phenomenon which reflects individual initiative, causes the ministry a lot of problems."

It is obvious that such initiative is strongly discouraged.

SINCE ONE of the most basic and important steps in immigrant absorption is that of earning a living, it is no surprise that the Ethiopians in Galilee are deeply concerned over this aspect of their problem. Unfortunately the best laid plans seem to have a tendency to get lost in a welter of bureaucratic delay, misunderstanding and often simple double-talk.

To exemplify this situation, one might take a look at the Ypoos metal works factory in Hatzor, Upper Galilee, where 10 Ethiopian immigrants have been working for the past five-and-a-half months. On January 1 these workers received notice that their employment would be terminated on the 15th of the month.

According to Albert Shabat, owner and manager of the factory, all of these 10 workers were good at their jobs and he is well pleased with

them. However, Shabat said, at the time he was asked to try them out in his factory, the Labour Ministry and the Absorption Ministry jointly promised him that the transport of the workers between Safad and the factory would be paid by the ministries. After extensive correspondence and telephone conversations no money has been forthcoming and of the NIS 100 from the ministries that each man was to receive as a part of his salary for the first four months of his training, only one month has so far been covered.

Shabat candidly told The Jerusalem Post that his factory is having some financial problems at the moment which is the reason he cannot keep these workers on. Each one of them costs him an extra NIS 150 per month for transport alone. He reiterated that in no case would he have considered letting them go in favour of local Hatzor workers if it had not been for this financial consideration.

At the Ministry of Labour, Geula Havilio, in charge of Ethiopian absorption on behalf of that office said the transport funds were the concern of the Ministry of Absorption. But at the Absorption Ministry a senior official pointed out that the Labour Ministry has a specific budget for the transport of workers who would be otherwise unemployed. Another point in question was that Hatzor is only 12 kilometres from Safad and therefore the work-

ers should travel by bus. The distance is correct but because of the bus system, the trip involves a minimum of two, and more often three buses, and takes between an hour and an hour and a half.

After several days Yoram Abergil, from the Ministry of Absorption told The Jerusalem Post that "in any case the factory would have fired these workers because the factory is in financial distress."

Shabat firmly denies this. In the meantime, the Absorption Ministry said that the reason for the nearly six months delay in their payment was that Shabat had included the request for worker transport in an overall in-service training plan he had suggested to the ministry. When this was rejected as too expensive, Shabat had failed to request the transport separately as he had, they said, failed to request the salary supplement separately.

This week there have been discussions between Shabat and the ministries and hopefully the matter may be settled before these 10 immigrants add to the 25 per cent unemployment rate for Ethiopian newcomers in Safad.

BUT if there is one thing the immigrants have learned it is that in order to better your lot you have to acquire a trade or profession with, of course, the necessary certificate to prove it. Consequently, a major ambition of Ethiopian Jews in Northern Galilee

is to attend a course that will give them a trade and a certificate.

There is ample proof that this approach is correct. Those Ethiopians who went to Carmiel for a lathe-operators course have since been successful. They have good jobs with salaries commensurate with any other Israeli lathe-operator and they enjoy the advantage of job mobility as they have a bona fide certificate.

Unfortunately most of them have not been so fortunate and there are not nearly enough courses for their needs. To cover this lack, both the Ministry of Absorption and the Ministry of Labour refer to the workers in various factories and plants as being in "on-the-job training programmes." This is, to say the least, euphemistic.

They are working, it is true, but only in rare instances are they actually getting any real training, and when they do it will not lead to the coveted certificate since the courses are not formally recognized. This makes the Ethiopian olim feel that even if he does learn a skill he will only be sealing his fate as a worker of that particular factory situated in a place where he does not want to live for the rest of his life.

In any case, when factory owners like Albert Shabat do proffer a concrete plan for on-the-job training, it is rejected by the ministries as being too expensive.

Nor is a course always enough. In many cases these workers need expanded and extended programmes to bring them up to the level where they can start working as assistant welders, metal workers and the like. In most cases the Hebrew they learned at their absorption centre was not enough and they need intensive teaching in Hebrew, basic maths and familiarization with such simple techniques as drawing a square, rectangle, triangle and so on. Many of them are totally unfamiliar with these simple geometric forms.

All this is not to say that the Ethiopian olim himself cannot be problematic at times. He or she certainly can. They are proud, touchy and easily offended. They resent menial work and have a rather laissez-faire attitude about appearing regularly. They are prone to not show up at all for a week during Pessah and Succot and if they have to attend a funeral they take the whole day. Since the community is tightly knit this can mean that all the Ethiopian immigrants in a factory may be absent on the same day.

At the Haborim factory at Kibbutz Kfar Hanasi, however, the managers have found that if a bonus is paid for regular work each month then the workers are far more stable. The bonus is actually only NIS 100 but it means the difference between having enough money for the month or not.

## Entering a new era after Project Renewal

The challenge will be to find projects that spark the interest of the Diaspora jointly with the participants, Eliezer Jaffe explains.

ONE OF the most lasting benefits of Project Renewal may turn out to be the involvement in it of the Diaspora communities.

Although a thorough evaluation of the project will be possible only after its completion, I believe that Renewal's built-in direct involvement of Diaspora Jews on the Israeli scene—with the Jewish Agency, with the neighbourhoods, with our politicians, and with the social service network—will endure and have far-reaching policy implications.

One result of the increased direct involvement of Diaspora Jews in Project Renewal is a deeper and closer knowledge of Israeli society, including its political structure. And there are clear signs that some key Diaspora leaders are initiating change in their own communities based on their new understanding of their role and the use of their funds in Israel.

In a few cases Diaspora leaders involved in the project became frustrated as their participation increased, and they are no longer willing to volunteer all of their time in the UJA framework. Their financial contributions or "dues" continue, but they no longer increase annually. It may be that more of their funds will be channelled to direct giving or to private foundations operating in Israel, instead of to the Jewish Agency almost exclusively.

A more usual response, however, is that of individual leaders and groups calling for change, whether cosmetic—i.e., increased representation on the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors—or more radical, such as the idea (to which I enthusiastically subscribe) of separating the World Zionist Organiza-

tion from the Agency.

Similarly, Project Renewal taught Diaspora leaders to demand more accountability in all of the Agency's other activities and departments.

Just as some Diaspora communities have opened offices in Israel, primarily to help ensure such accountability, Israel committees have sprung up in the community federations to obtain and act upon information they receive from Israel.

AMONG the project's shortcomings is the unfortunate "opportunity" it gave Israel's government to put off the formation and implementation of a national social welfare policy regarding the 200 or so neighbourhoods not included in the project. It is also very likely that some of the government funds allocated for Renewal were in any case earmarked for similar programmes and did not represent any increase in the funds available for social programmes.

One fear I have is that Project Renewal may become a permanent department in the Jewish Agency, thereby becoming bureaucratized and politicized.

As the project winds down, I see two likely responses on the part of the neighbourhood residents. One is that efforts will be made to convince the Diaspora communities to continue their involvement by financing business enterprises, trust funds, and scholarships, and by establishing permanent service positions on the model of endowed chairs at a university. These are good ideas, but such programmes should be based on the specific Diaspora community's ingenuity and enthusiasm and on careful, independent advance feasibility studies.

The second possible response from the residents would be an acceptance of—and resignation to—the new post-Renewal situation. The resulting sense of abandonment and passivity gives cause for worry. On the other hand, the residents of many neighbourhoods may well continue to be deeply involved in their communities, and this would be an extremely important spin-off of Project Renewal.

Furthermore, new levels of services have been created in many neighbourhoods, from which it will be difficult to retreat. In fact, as the project winds down, the high expectations it has generated will undoubtedly clash with the economic necessity of reducing the level of services. In any event, this new level is unlikely to return to that in existence before Project Renewal. This is in itself an achievement that may be sustained by greater citizen involvement and expectations.

Project Renewal has also instilled a greater readiness among Israel's national political bodies to increase citizens' involvement in local affairs.

The influence of Diaspora Jews in this direction has been major.

As the project ends, the direct contact it created between individuals from the Diaspora and Israelis in the neighbourhoods and outside of them will be greatly reduced. We must look for ways to institutionalize such contacts, so that they never stop. Until now, donors have been the captives of Israeli officials and politicians. This must change. And the basic lessons of Project Renewal must be applied in searching for new forms of cooperation.

THERE ARE MANY possible directions for new projects. There could be a five-year campaign to eliminate illiteracy in Israel. Another effort could ensure that no prospective student be forced to forego university studies for lack of financial means. A Diaspora community's contact with an Israeli neighbourhood in Project Renewal could be developed into a permanent twinning relationship with an entire town.

In addition, specific projects or

enterprises (economic or social) could be adopted by different sections of a Diaspora community, or by individuals. What is important is to maintain direct contact on projects with definable goals over limited periods of time, after which new projects should be initiated.

The challenge will be to find joint projects that will once again spark the interest of Israelis and Diaspora communities and groups that are looking for the intense personal involvement that was offered to and demanded of them by Project Renewal.

It is absolutely essential that at least a portion of the funds raised by each Jewish federation be earmarked for a specific project in a specific place or specific places in Israel. But the Jewish Agency's present structure is not only not conducive to direct contacts between donors in the Diaspora and projects in Israel, it actually discourages them.

ONLY IF the Agency fulfils its role of efficiently serving the needs of

Israel and of the donors, is its existence justified. While many donors were too complacent in the past about controlling the use of their funds, their involvement in Renewal and in other projects involving direct contact has made them increasingly unhappy about their lack of control.

The concept of financial contributions acting as the major vehicle for Diaspora Jews to express their identification with Israel is unhealthy. Ultimately, I would like to see the increased direct contacts leading to more aliyah. But so long as the reality is a relationship based on money it is incumbent upon us to get the most direct involvement possible out of the donors by keeping them in very close contact with their money and efforts here in Israel.

This is where reforms in the Jewish Agency come in, whether minor—as at present—or middle-range, including the separation of the Jewish Agency from the WZO, and giving donors total control over their funds.

A more radical change would be to disband the Agency. It is a structure designed for pre-State problems, and its usefulness today is extremely doubtful. The most obvious current example is its handling of the Ethiopian aliyah.

Apart from using the Ethiopian immigrants as pawns between the Agency and the Ministry of Absorption, converting hotels into absorption centres, and withdrawing abruptly after immigrants move into permanent housing, the Agency's structure is an obstacle to aliyah and to the successful absorption of immigrants. Neither donors nor Israelis should tolerate such a situation.

I BELIEVE it is the responsibility of the UJA and the federation leaders—if they want to continue to serve as the principal conduit of funds—to develop projects and demand accountability that will satisfy both the Israelis and the donors. Otherwise, donors will seek other conduits, simply refrain from contributing in the future, or diversify their charitable efforts.

The UJA shies away from a drastic assessment of the problem of philanthropy in Israel, or from acknowledging publicly that there is a problem, for fear that fund-raising would suffer from the debate and publicity. But steps toward a solution can be taken that would not necessarily be front-page news in the Jewish newspapers, and which would be directly related to the educational process begun by Project Renewal.

Instead of waiting for signals from Israel and pleas from reformers, the UJA and the federations should initiate a separation of Israel-bound philanthropy from the Israeli political framework that constrains it and find exciting hands-on projects to support.

Project Renewal is a success story. It broke old formulas about the role of Diaspora Jewry and about centralized planning, and showed what can be done with new ideas and new leadership. Donors can no longer be counted on to give blindly, and they also have more than just money to contribute to Israel. The acknowledgement of both of these new facts, proven and tested in the Renewal neighbourhoods, has created new realities and partnerships far beyond most people's expectations of Project Renewal.

This new standard should be the future norm.



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THE OUTCOME of the elections to the Bundestag on January 25 seems a foregone conclusion. The Christian Union parties - the Christian Democratic Union of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Bavarian Christian Social Union of Bavaria's Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss - are expected to poll 46 or 47 per cent of the vote - not enough for an absolute majority of seats in the parliament. The polls predict that 6 to 7 per cent of the vote will go to the Christian parties' junior liberal coalition partner, the Liberal Free Democrats, still safely above the 5 per cent which constitutes the minimum vote requirement for a party to get into the Bundestag.

On the other side of the spectrum, the Social Democrats (SPD) seem to be heading for an electoral disaster and are expected to poll just 35-37 per cent of the vote, while the leftist ecologically minded Greens hover around 10 to 11 per cent in the opinion polls. If the liberals fail to muster the required 5 per cent of the vote, either the left or the Christian bloc would gain an absolute majority.

While a Christian majority would provide a rightist, but stable, government, a red-green majority in a parliament without liberals would cause political turmoil. The Social Democrats have refused, at the insistence of their moderate candidate for chancellor, Johannes Rau, to even contemplate a coalition with the Greens. The Greens put forward radical demands like the immediate closure of all West German nuclear power plants, a radical reform of society and the economy, and unilateral disarmament and leaving the Nato alliance. Some Social Democrats favour similar steps but Rau and other moderates in his party realize that an SPD viewed as leaning toward a coalition with the Greens would become unpalatable to many of its own traditional voters.

Christian Democrats maintain that a red-green majority would lead to a red-green government, despite all Rau's protestations to the contrary. They assert that Rau would be dropped by his party if he refused to forge a coalition with the Greens - provided that the two parties had a combined majority.

GIVEN THE polls, this is likely to remain speculation only. Still, it should be noted that the left in Germany has not lost its electoral basis in comparison with, say, 1972 - the year in which then-chancellor

## Die Kohltonie

West Germany's electorate go to the polls in just over a week. Wladimir Struminski, *The Jerusalem Post's* Bonn Correspondent, assesses the situation, while, below, John Dornberg analyses the country's most controversial politician.



HELMUT KOHL

SZLAKMANN

Willy Brandt led the SPD to an electoral triumph with more than 45 per cent of the vote. At that time, however, there were no Greens around.

Today the two left-of-centre parties muster 45 per cent of the vote, or even slightly more, but the vote is split. The success of the Greens in the Eighties proves that the SPD has not exploited the new issues: disarmament, ecology and general discontent with society, in particular among the young generation.

The SPD governed for 13 years, from 1969 to 1982. Today, free of the responsibility of governing and hard-

pressed to answer the Green challenge, the SPD's left wing displays a clear tendency to radical ecologism, anti-Americanism, the belittling of the Soviet threat, and unilateral disarmament. Its positions are close to the Greens. The right-wing of the SPD with its traditional social-democratic positions is now on the defensive within the party.

THE ISRAELI public has paid particular attention to those events which affected Israel and the Jewish people. Thus, during his visit to Israel in early 1984, Kohl indicated that he, who had been "just a child"

when the war was over, felt less inhibited by Germany's Nazi past. In what immediately became a hallmark of his clumsiness, Kohl invoked "the mercy of late birth."

Undeterred by the negative reaction to his statements in Israel - that is among Jews and leftist Germans rather than among his own voters - he went on with the Bitburg affair in 1985, ignoring the bitter reactions of German Jewish and world Jewish organizations.

In a recent "non-Jewish" development, Kohl compared, for all practical purposes, Soviet ruler Mikhail Gorbachev with the Nazi propaganda minister Josef Goebbels, claiming that both were masters of public relations.

Last week, Kohl claimed that East Germany maintained concentration camps for political prisoners - a claim which was rejected even by many right-wing commentators as exaggerated, and obviously caused an uproar in leftist circles. Still, Kohl's remark seemed to be consistent with a general trend among the German right to deny, by implication, the uniqueness of Nazi crimes.

In fact, most of the newly-found nationalist attitudes in the Christian union parties have to be viewed in the light of the Germans' attitude to their country's Nazi past. The West German Federal Republic was founded in 1949 with the ambition of becoming a democratic, law-abiding, tolerant, anti-totalitarian and anti-racist country - the opposite of the Third Reich. Departures from these values cause many critics, by no means just Jews, to raise the question of how consistent today's democratic right is in adhering to the lessons of history.

A case in point is the debate about political asylum which caused major political controversy last year. Reacting to a rapid influx of asylum-seekers from the Third World, the Christian parties sought, unsuccessfully, ways to curb the granting of political asylum in West Germany.

That effort itself is quite indicative of the right's wish to shake off some principles - like the constitutional right to asylum - instituted after the war specifically to counter the Nazi heritage.

Likewise, the hitherto restrictive arms export policy resulted from the wish not to make Germany once again a major supplier of weapons to nations which are likely to actually use them. Not for nothing does Strauss, who is the leading proponent of relaxing the restrictions and

allowing arms exports to, among others, Saudi Arabia, link his demand to Germany's national consciousness. "We do not want to live forever in the shadow of Hitler and his crimes," he declared recently, referring to arms exports.

THERE IS a tendency among some Germans to move to the right. Indeed, the Christian Union parties fear that an extreme right-wing party may establish itself and, some day, make it to the Bundestag if they themselves do not occupy the ground on the political right.

Again, it was Strauss who formulated the demand that no party with democratic credentials (i.e. not overtly neo-Nazi) must be allowed to emerge to the right of the Christian Union. While other Christian politicians, too, fear right-wing competition, Strauss already experienced the threat. A right-wing "Republican Party," making its first electoral appearance, polled 3 per cent of the votes in last autumn's elections to the Bavarian state parliament (Landtag). That party virulently opposed the generous acceptance of political refugees from the Third World. Only due to the 5 per cent threshold did the new party stay out of the Landtag.

Not that conservative West German citizens are constantly preoccupied with national questions. Rather, they pay more attention to their bank accounts and monthly salaries. The generally healthy economy is the major reason for the present coalition's strong position in the polls, despite the two million unemployed. A Christian Democratic government presiding over economic misery might easily lose to the Social Democrats (as well as some votes to the radical right).

Today, however, Helmut Kohl, the Christian parties and a majority of the electorate seem to be in a similar mood; satisfied, well-to-do and trying to shake off some burdens of the past. This harmony enables Kohl to be the undisputed leader of his party despite the public blunders he keeps making.

Or maybe his clumsiness directed at liberating Germans from a bad conscience, his exaggerated onslaughts on East European regimes, and his intellectual but popular down-to-earthness attract many voters. On the eve of elections, Germany is very much a German Kohltonie.

Bonn government from selling arms to countries in crisis areas such as the Middle East.

He was accompanied to Saudi Arabia by his son Max who reportedly reassured the Saudis that they would be able to fill their entire shopping list after the election when his father would replace Genscher.

He has also come out four-square against a "zero solution" to intermediate-range European nuclear missiles, such as the U.S. and Soviet Union seem to have agreed on. Needless to say he backs Ronald Reagan fully on SDI and wants Germany to have an even larger share of the research and development work in "Star Wars".

All this is nothing new. These views and positions are consistent with those Strauss has held for decades, since his days as defence minister and during his campaign for the chancellorship. But now his chances of implementing them seem greater than ever.



Iran's parliament in session.

(UPI)

## Iranian debates

Abraham Rabinovich

IN AYATOLLAH Khomeini's seemingly absolutist regime in Iran, the parliament that was a rubber stamp under the shah has become a vital forum for airing policy choices, while a multiplicity of power centres around the country mitigates the authority of the central state and of Khomeini himself.

This illumination of the surprisingly unmonolithic shape of the Iranian power structure was offered last week in Jerusalem by Prof. Shaul Bakhash of George Mason University in Virginia at the International Colloquium on Democracy and Modernity held at the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Prof. Bakhash noted the emergence in the seven years since the Islamic revolution of numerous power centres like the revolutionary guards, revolutionary committees and revolutionary courts. In government offices and factories, Islamic committees have emerged while provincial clergy wield great authority. "All this doesn't imply democracy but they are checks on the central authority," he said.

The parliament is an institution inherited from the previous regime and would seem to be an anachronism in a state guided by ready-made Islamic laws. But it has proven an arena for exposure and debate of what is on the collective mind of the Islamic republic. "Even though in the crunch, Khomeini can impose his will, the parliament is now a real forum for debate with recognizable factions and lines of policy," said Bakhash.

Another institution, the Guardianship Council, made up of 12 senior jurists, reviews all legislation and can veto what is deemed in violation of Islamic law. "But at least they hold up the theory of law that stands above the parliament," said the professor.

THE CONCEPT of the Islamic state and of Khomeini's role hinges on the notion of the vice-regency of the Islamic jurist - the notion that the

leadership of Islam passed from the Prophet to 12 infallible imams and then to Islamic jurists in successive generations. The jurists were to be supreme experts in Islamic law who would retain leadership of the community until the return of "the hidden imam."

Khomeini's emergence as the current jurist, notes Bakhash, is a matter of general consensus in Iran which recognizes him as the outstanding legal authority of the time. However, it seems doubtful to Bakhash that such a consensus will surround Khomeini's successor. A successor was in fact chosen three years ago - Ayatollah Montazeri. "There are other scholars who are more respected and this choice has been challenged." Some Iranians have even suggested that a council of jurists lead the country after Khomeini. While Montazeri will presumably assume the role, it can be assumed that the position will lose some of its "governmental" aspect while retaining its spiritual aspect.

It was the influx of oil money in the post-Yom Kippur War boom that disrupted a fairly stable regime and laid the basis for the Islamic revolution. "The state was supremely self-confident and insensitive to what was happening," said Bakhash. The government had destroyed potentially meditative bodies like unions and the militant clergy moved into this vacuum to seize power.

The clergy was to become ubiquitous in the Khomeini regime. Clergymen form a majority of the parliament and have steadily displaced judges even in secular courts.

An important direct influence on the Iranian population was the dispatch by Khomeini's regime of preachers all over the country to deliver the Friday sermon at mosque prayers. It is the local mosque that provides ration books and the local clergy must provide bona fides to any student wishing to enter university. Khomeini himself has remained the final arbiter on all major national questions.

However, the passing of Khomeini seems likely to reveal that the black cloth of the ruling clergy emerging from his shadow has many shades.

## Strauss's comeback

John Dornberg/Munich



Franz-Josef Strauss

well. In the early 1960s one of the most popular slogans and posters in West Germany read: "God protect this, our house, from Barry Goldwater and Franz-Josef Strauss." But whereas Goldwater, 80, has mellowed and now retired, Strauss at age 71 is as feisty, outspoken, outrageous and ambitious as ever.

He has been the leader of the Christian Social Party for more than 30 years and has forged it into his personal power instrument. For the past eight years he has also been prime minister of Bavaria, a job that clearly bores him and that he obviously regards as a few sizes too small.

In recent weeks, Strauss has been dominating the political scene, making it clear that he is bidding once again for national power and is determined to return to the limelight in Bonn - to replace Hans-Dietrich Genscher as West Germany's foreign minister.

More than that, he appears determined this time to really clip the wings of Genscher's small Free Democratic party, the dog-wagging tail of German politics, which has held the balance of power, either as the partner of the Christian Democrats or of the Social Democrats, in all except two administrations since 1949.

His prospects for doing both are good.

Strauss has served notice that he will demand more cabinet seats than the five his party presently holds. This would mean getting the foreign ministry for himself and getting rid of Genscher, who has been foreign minister for more than 12 years, eight of them under Helmut Schmidt in partnership with the Social Democrats and four under Kohl. Strauss has the leverage to do so. Without his party, which operates only in Bavaria where Kohl's, in turn, does not exist, nothing goes in Bonn.

Strauss's group currently controls 53 seats - nearly 11 per cent of the Bundestag total and one-fifth of the present centre-right coalition's total. He and Kohl could form a minority government without the Free Democrats.

STRAUSS is driven by more than just personal ambition and the conviction that he is a better man than all others, Kohl included. He has been waging an ideological war against the Free Democrats on both foreign and domestic policy for years. In the domestic sphere he is a strict

law-and-order man who clashes head on with the Free Democrats' commitment to civil liberties. The Free Democrats' refusal, for example, to endorse tougher police, anti-demonstration and anti-terrorist measures proposed by Strauss's party, prompted him to say the other day that the Free Democrats "will have to take the blame as accomplices in the next murder by terrorists."

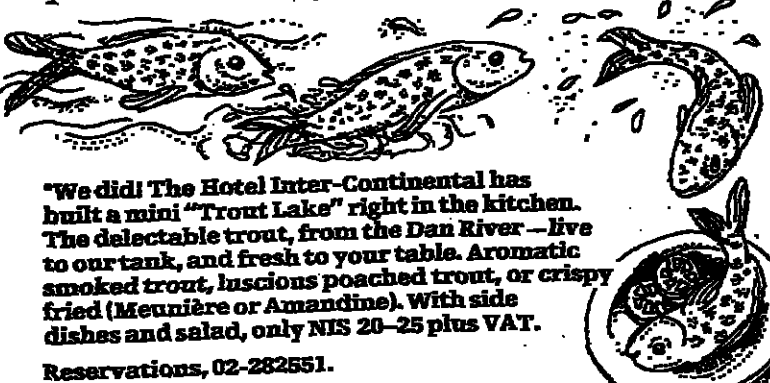
His hard-line opposition to Genscher is even more pronounced. He argues that Genscher is pursuing the same goals and conducting the same foreign policy that he did in partnership with the Social Democrats: too soft toward Moscow and Eastern Europe; too preoccupied with disarmament and arms control; too unfriendly toward countries such as South Africa, Chile, Paraguay and Saudi Arabia and just too "diplomatic" on matters where loud shouting would be better.

Meanwhile, while awaiting the outcome of the election, Strauss has been conducting a kind of counter-foreign policy of his own. It presages the direction that West Germany would take if he succeeds in his bid for a comeback to Bonn.

He has emerged as the key figure, for example, in the illegal sale of submarine construction plans to South Africa. Indeed, he has often been a kind of lobbyist for Pretoria and opposed any kind of pressure to get the Botha government to change its apartheid policies and emergency regulations.

Late last month, he made a semi-private trip, heading a delegation of West German industrialists, to Saudi Arabia, and on his return said blatantly that the ban on delivering Leopard battle tanks to that country must be lifted. A 1963 law bars the

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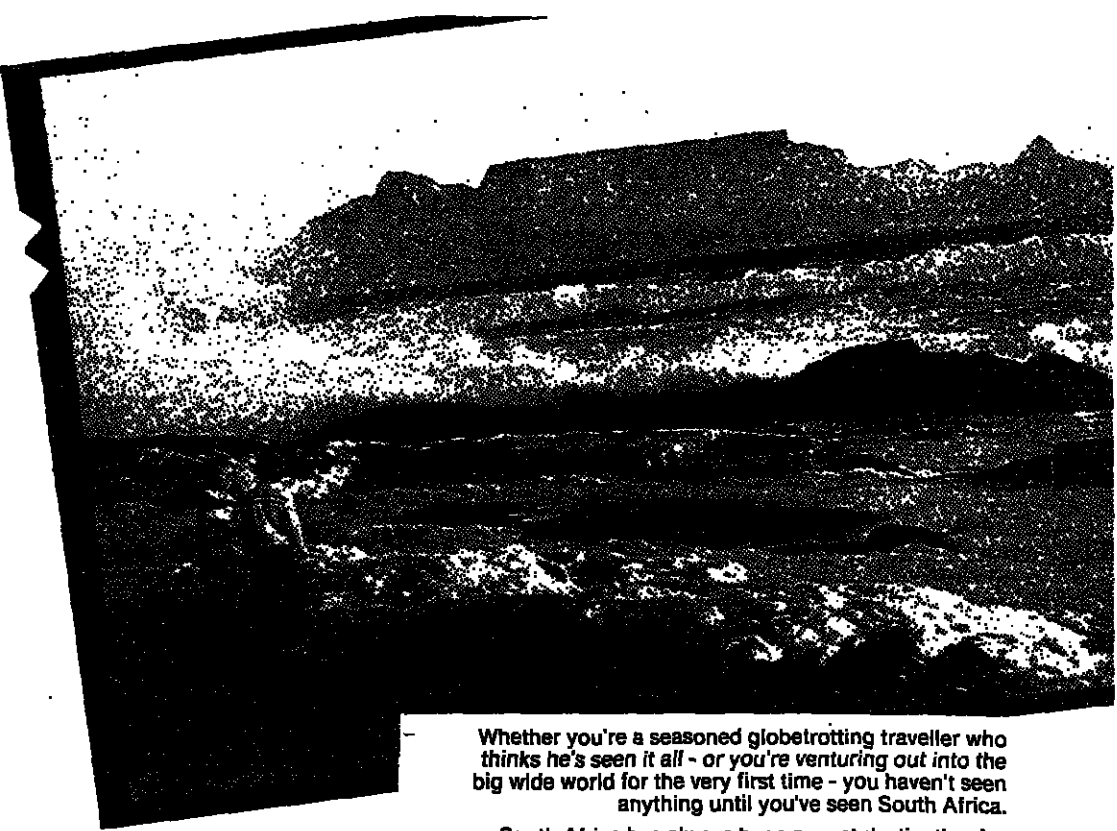
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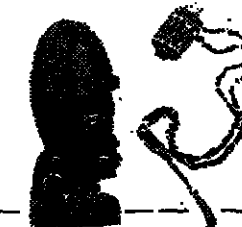
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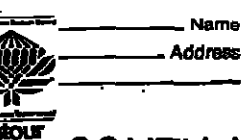
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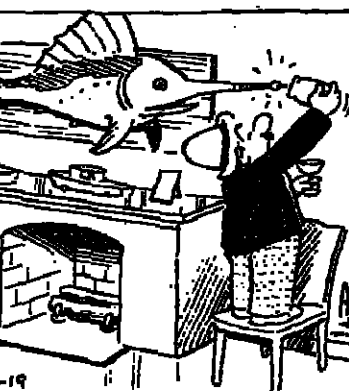
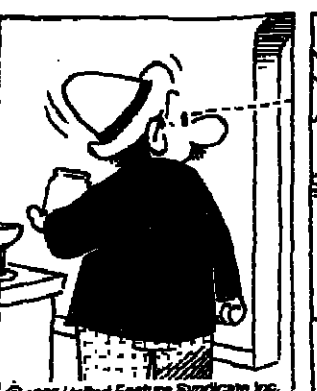


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LAUGHING IT OFF

# Lebanon and Occam's twin blade

Larry Lefkowitz

OCCAM'S (sometimes Ockham's) razor states that, "entities are not to be multiplied beyond necessity." Lebanon states the contra (if I may employ this last term without taking sides in the Iranian arms affair)—and more: not only are entities to be multiplied beyond necessity, but they are to war against one another as much as possible.

In this formulation entities = factions. The Shi'ite Amal is currently (nothing is more existential than a Lebanese faction) fighting the Palestinians. It also periodically fights Christians: either the Lebanese Forces (something of a misnomer) in the North, or the South Lebanese Army in the South. Occasionally, Amal also fights the Hizbullah, which also (or in turn, take your pick) fights the Christians, principally the South Lebanese Army.

The Christian right fights the Christian left, and also the Palestinians. (Ironically, the Maronite Christians, the people who brought you Sabra and Shatilla, are now helping PLO fighters to battle, *inter alia*, other Lebanese. Talk about honour among fiends.) The Palestinians also fight the Palestinians (not

a tautology), with the PLO versus the anti-Arafat groupings.

If I have left anyone out, or failed to delineate the currently correct alignments, my apologies: I do not possess a home computer. I have purposefully left out Israel; Occam's razor has enough trouble hacking its way through the Lebanese jungle without further multiplying entities beyond necessity.

The particular formulation of Occam's razor depends upon the encyclopedia you peruse. For example, a different formulation from that which opened this article is: "For purposes of explanation, things not necessary to exist should not, unless it is absolutely necessary, be postulated as existing." Applied to Lebanon, this would include such things as peace, cooperation, and common sense.

This formulation of Occam's razor is also known as the Law of Parimony, summing up precisely the present state of the Lebanese economy, which hardly exists. In this respect, the economy is a microcosm of the state of Lebanon, which itself hardly exists.

Occam, or Ockham, of razor-fame is not a variant of Achim — he

was not an Arabic savant, or even a barber to the caliph who traded in his shaving razor for a philosophical one. No, he was not Arab, but English, though often the twain do meet.

Occam apparently derives from Ockham in Surrey. The place, as is so often true, ultimately gives its name, rather than the person. It is William of Occam who first unsheathed Occam's razor (admittedly, "William's razor" smacks of a shaving advertisement, or a gratuitous honorific to William the Conqueror who, incidentally, used a sword and not a razor, save in the metaphorical sense).

Also known as the "Invincible Doctor", William of Occam was a 14th-century scholar. Lebanon could use an invincible doctor, as the patient is moribund. This is to be expected, after having been drawn and quartered; although "quartered" is an understatement of the best English tradition. In its divided condition, Lebanon refutes the dictum (not Occam's) that "less is more": in Lebanon, more is less.

William of Occam is reputed to have attacked (verbally) all his contemporaries and his immediate pre-

decessors. In short, he was a Lebanese ahead of his time. He was a Nominalist philosopher, regarding universals or abstract concepts as mere names without any corresponding reality: a Lebanese, if not an Arabic, viewpoint.

Originally, William of Occam was a Scholastic who prepared for the overthrow of Scholasticism. This is also in the best Lebanese tradition: for and yet against. Scholasticism, in one of its definitions, means: "servile adherence to the methods and teaching of the schools; narrow or unenlightened insistence on traditional doctrines or forms of exposition." All Lebanese Fundamentalists please stand up. (It is advisable to use "please" with these types, as they are extremely touchy. Fundamentally so.)

Occam's razor can be, as we have seen, multi-faceted. Perhaps with regard to Lebanon double-edged, is a preferable description, raising scimitar-like nuances, the most appropriate of which is the "razor-bridge" — (*al-Sirat*) — believed by Mohammedans to lead over hell. One bridge it is desirable not even to come to.

MUSIC

## Out of balance

VERA VAIDMAN, violinist, and Emanuel Kravitsky, pianist, perform at the Academy of Music, Tel Aviv, on January 14. The program includes: Beethoven's Sonata Op. 6 for violin and piano; Korngold's Sonata Op. 6 for violin and piano; Dvorak's "The Enchanted Kisser" for violin solo; Schubert's Fantasy in C major for violin and piano.

THE Vaidman-Kravitsky duo spent most of the evening searching for, but never quite finding, an appropriate dynamic balance between their two instruments. Granted they were not aided in any way by the acoustic properties of the Academy hall, where one grand piano resonates like three; still, one expected two such seasoned performers to be able to agree on something more constructive than their right to disagree. As each heard the other getting louder each took the appropriate action, and the spiraling stridency ebbed and flowed, laminating the evening with a galvanized edginess wherein the players' impressive technical and musical gifts were frequently lost.

This was less the case in the opening Tzur work, played, under the

composer's watchful but benevolent eye, with much of the affable good will one expects when members of the musical fraternity get together. The work itself has a great deal to recommend it, and deserves a fuller discussion than space permits. The Dvorak piece comes close to being a violinist's show-case; it is stuffed with motives culled from the Klezmer repertoire and with flashy virtuoso fiddling. One would require a second hearing to determine whether it just missed the mark because of problems in the score or the performance.

The most disturbing part of the programme, in which the aforementioned problems of balance all came together, was Korngold's sonata. Any Opus 6 is obviously an adolescent work, and this one is painfully so, forcing the listener to sit through pages and pages of notes while waiting with increasing impatience for some music. Eventually, some little music does find its way into the third and especially the fourth movements, scant reward for anyone still



Vera Vaidman

listening after the first two. If Mahler was quoted correctly as saying that this piece bears the stamp of genius, then it must be a rubber stamp on a promissory note, one not redeemed until many years later. The Schubert Fantasy, which suffered from, yes, balance problems,

luffed keyboard passages and sharp violin intonation, could hardly have been a less felicitous climax to an evening of alternating contemporary and long-winded selections. The temptation to speculate on reasons for the choice will be firmly resisted. ARIEH LICHT

N.F.L.

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Avi Temkin / Post Economic Reporter

GALLOPING inflation is about to return to our lives, on the wings of a misguided 12 per cent devaluation of the shekel. The men who decided to devalue the shekel, Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Governor of the Bank of Israel Michael Bruno, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amora, are wrong if they think the inflation genie will go back into its bottle after the current price shock.

The official government version is that wages rose excessively in 1986, eroding exporters' profits, and jeopardizing the competitiveness of Israeli exports. Amora, who was never a great believer in the stabilization plan launched in July 1985, was one of the first to support the proposed devaluation.

Nissim and Bruno were late converts. They came to support the move three months ago, after opposing it for a long time, out of fear that it would rock the economy.

The notion that the devaluation will not renew the inflationary spiral is based on the package deal accord, which stipulates that workers will forgo the pay increment due them on the first 2.7 per cent of the coming cost-of-living allowance, and that employers' contributions to the National Insurance Institute will be lowered by 2.7 per cent. These combined steps, the government and the central bank hope, will negate any cost-push effect on prices, and thus prevent a renewal of the spiral of price and wage hikes. If everything goes according to plan, there will be a one-time increase in the Consumer Price Index of about 6 per cent, and then inflation will go back to its previous rate.

WHAT Amora, Bruno, Nissim and Peres preferred not to tell the public is that their plan involves many risks, and that there were very good reasons not to carry it out.

The plan's weak spots are obvious. First, even if we assume that the government is right in predicting "moderate" price increases, the

cumulative inflation will total some 10 per cent by the end of April. In other words, in terms of prices, all the benefits of the devaluation will be erased in no more than four months and Amora, Bruno, Nissim and Peres will again have to face the question of whether or not to devalue. In short, they will be back to square one. Given past experience, there is little point in believing Nissim's promise that the rate of exchange will remain stable.

Moreover, the Treasury's calculations should be regarded as unreliable. The 12 per cent devaluation of the shekel, and the rise in the prices of subsidized goods, will serve as a convenient signal to everybody in the economy that the time has arrived for price hikes. Bezak was only the first to adapt itself to the new situation, and announced a 10 per cent increase in telephone rates immediately after the devaluation.

Month after month the public will watch the Consumer Price Index rising. Once the cumulative inflation totals 10 per cent, speculation about an imminent devaluation will spread, and a run away from the shekel to the dollar will get started. Willing or not, the government will give in.

As Bruno and Nissim stressed, the devaluation of the shekel would not have been decided upon without Histadrut agreement to forgo part of the coming C-o-L allowance. It was Amora and Peres who took it upon themselves to break the labour federation's opposition to this idea. The vice premier and the deputy finance minister, both Labour Party men, are so used to the fact that workers and wage earners pay the price of economic plans, that for them it was only obvious that the same thing should happen this time. They dragged Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar to the agreement, using the rescue money which the Histadrut-owned companies need from the Treasury as a bait.

Peres's and Amora's attitude is nothing new. Since 1974, the govern-



Adi Amora and Shimon Peres, the men who got the Histadrut to agree to devaluation.

(Brian P. Hendler)

## Destructive devaluation

ment of Israel has been trying to erode real wages, only to find out time after time that they have been outsmarted by wage earners. There is no reason to believe this time something different will happen.

In 1985, there was a sense of national emergency in the air. Threatened by hyperinflation, workers agreed to an erosion of their

wages. Barely six months later they started recouping their losses. This time, with no sense of emergency, it will take far less for unions to start pressing for wage increments.

Collective wage agreements are due to expire in April, and by then the wage erosion will be evident to every union official and working man in this country. Every union

that lacked a "reasonable" reason to press for wage increases has been offered the perfect argument — the devaluation and its consequences. Kessar promised Nissim and Peres that workers would forgo part of the C-o-L allowance, but he cannot promise that unions and rank-and-file works committees will not start pressing for increases at the plant or

sectorial level.

The government and the Bank of Israel hope that once pressure starts for increases in salaries, the employers will stand firm against them. This will prove to be another illusion. Why should the employers risk labour disruptions at a time of high profits? They will grant workers their wage increases, in the knowledge that the government will eventually again devalue the shekel. They will continue operating without strikes, knowing they have a government pledge to preserve their profits if they are eroded by wage hikes.

BUT WHAT would have been a viable alternative to the devaluation? In theory, the same results could have been attained without the devaluation. An agreement with the Histadrut on delaying part of the payment of the C-o-L allowance could have been achieved, and government payments to the NII on behalf of the employers could have been implemented. All this without a devaluation which only increases nominal values, without any real benefits. That alternative solution would have boosted profitability and lowered labour costs for employers, without rocking stability.

Bruno hinted this week that such a solution could have been implemented, but that the Histadrut said it needed a devaluation to accompany such steps, so it could "sell" workers on giving up part of the C-o-L allowance.

Although plausible, this explanation is not complete. Bruno failed to mention the pressure exerted by the heads of the electronics industry and by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a devaluation. The electronics industry and the military-industrial complex were hit in 1986 by the fall in the value of the dollar, the drop in orders from the Defence Ministry and faulty management. Instead of taking precautions against the fall of the dollar, they granted wage increases. Now they have presented the bill for their blunders to the rest of the economy.

Some government officials confessed after Tuesday's devaluation that

it would have been better to grant special aid to those industries which were hit hard by reduction in orders from the Defence Ministry and from abroad. This would have helped them out of the crisis, without the need to jeopardize the only tangible achievement of the government's economic policy until the devaluation — a reduction in the inflation rate.

But these officials knew that they were powerless to resist the offensive of the industrialists, the electronics lobby and the defence minister. Now they are waiting for the worst. The devaluation has brought back uncertainty into the life of the economy.

When this happens it is only natural that everybody will try to get some kind of "insurance" against the unexpected. What this means is that workers will not only demand compensation for the past, but also for what could happen in the future. Industrialists will start raising prices for the same reason. Soon it will be a question of not lagging behind.

Such developments are not new to the Israeli economy. It is an almost exact description of what happened in the dark days of galloping inflation. It took 10 years to teach economists and government officials, at least those open to new ideas, that there is no point in devaluing the shekel. Unfortunately that lesson was not learned well. Bruno and Peres forgot it, and Amora never believed in it in the first place.

Optimists who opposed Tuesday's devaluation hope that next time things will be different. They hope the government and the Bank of Israel will come to realize the destructive effects of devaluing the shekel and will start looking for ways of solving the problems in a realistic way.

Judging by developments during the past three months, their hopes appear unrealistic. The government and the bank have been trying the same recipe for many years, without success, and they are going to continue using it again and again, until stopped by an emergency similar to that of July 1985.

How do international money-men relate to the scandals affecting Israel's economy? The Jerusalem Post's Pinhas Landau points out that they use the same yardstick as native Israelis, the inflation rate.

MOST OF the time we are so taken up with what is going on in our own small patch and what we think about each other, that we quite forget to consider what 'they' — meaning the outside world — think about us.

When this phenomenon is called to our attention, it is usually in a slanted way: a case in point is the Japhet/Leumigate scandal; the prime minister and his deputy were careful to note that their intervention in the scandal, first to try and persuade Eli Hurwitz to stay on as chairman and then to have a hand in appointing his successor, was undertaken with a view to the impact abroad.

Arye Dulin similarly drew attention to the likely repercussions abroad had his initial reaction to the news of Japhet's severance pay, which was leaked last October, been to fire the whole board. Indeed there is more than a kernel of reality in this consideration: what foreigners think, especially foreign bankers, is a matter of no small importance to the Israeli financial community and the economy as a whole.

But what the top bankers and politicians tell us we ought to take into account and what really matters to those foreigners about us, turn out to be two entirely different things. It will be recalled, for instance, that before, during and after the Bejski hearings and publication of the report, the bankers and their spokesmen, including those in the Liberal Party and elsewhere, attempted to drum into us that if world figures, such as Japhet and Recanat, were to leave their banks, Israel's image abroad would be radically altered — for the worse, of course. This self-serving argument was tried and found wanting: Japhet and the

others were dumped and the country, the rest of the world and relations between the two continued more or less as before.

That is not to say that the extraordinary, almost unprecedented feat of wiping out the entire top echelon of the country's banking system in one fell swoop had no effect. It caused a dislocation at some levels of contact and, while it may have been of interest to foreigners to see that the Israelis were serious about cleaning up their internal scandals such as the bank share collapse, it must also have raised some eyebrows as to the degree of volatility of the banking system and the country's economy. Everyone, after all, has scandals and dirty washing is hung out in public all over the place, but bankers and "gnomes" of all descriptions don't like publicity and prefer to confine their affairs to the economic pages rather than the front pages of sensationalist newspapers.

In short, to many international money-men, the problem with the Israeli bankers was not what they did — every country has its own peculiarities and if Israel wants to rig its share market, that's its own business — but that they got caught and were chucked out; that shows stupidity, bad luck and/or inefficiency — all of which are undesirable.

FORTUNATELY for Israel, the negative implications of the bank shake-out were, in the eyes of foreigners, far outweighed by the very positive developments in the national economy last year. That brings us to a major consideration which should always be borne in mind when discussing the 'importance' of the local banking community in

## Nobody out there cares about Japhet

maintaining and expanding Israel's links with the international banking community.

What counts, to the overwhelming extent of 99 per cent in many estimations, is the health and prospects of the national economy, not the state of the banking industry, and certainly not the personal well-being of any individual, even if he is Ernest Japhet and thinks that he is the last word in financial acumen, banking expertise and the greatest money-man since the original N.M. Rothschild.

This assessment is freely given by both foreign bankers in close touch with the Israeli economy, and by Israeli bank officials and others in close touch with the foreign financial scene. Although a pretence was made during the bank shares affair that personal contacts were vital, this was blown out of proportion. It was not accepted by the media and public, and had an impact on the politicians who wanted to save their banking friends anyway. In the event, it turned out that personalities meant even less than objective assessments had believed.

In the next stage of events, i.e. after publication of the Bejski report and all that followed, a new orthodoxy was developed, which said that not only did personal contacts matter hardly at all, what mattered was hard numbers, and not about the banks, such as what their profits were and whether they were expanding or contracting their overseas business, but what the economic numbers were.

This new approach suited everybody very nicely last year, since the economy was performing its miracle of reducing inflation from 500-1,000 per cent to 15-20 per cent, per

annum. The budget deficit was under control for the first time in over a decade, and the foreign currency reserves were reaching record highs. Israel was now being sold on the basis of its macro-economic performance, not on the suave urbanity of Japhet and Recanat chatting with their opposite numbers in leading American and European banks.

The banks' own performance in 1985, when their profits rose sharply, gave an extra non-personal twist to the story. On an institutional basis, they could say they were doing better, and thus draw attention away from the personal charges. Then they could point to the organizational and marketing charges that the new bosses began introducing shortly after their arrival. Thus were found a combination of factors to underpin the anti-personal approach, based on an economy-oriented management line of *hasbara*.

NOW LET US try and update all these trends, which characterized 1986, and put them into the context of the dramatic developments in the banking industry and the macro-economy in the first two weeks of 1987. Taking banking first, it is pretty obvious that the massacre of the board of directors at Bank Leumi is not something that anyone is going to use as an advertising slogan abroad. It should be borne in mind that Leumi is still by far the largest Israeli banking presence worldwide and by far the best known Israeli bank in the international banking community.

For this reason, and for others as well, even Leumi's rivals will have no desire to explain that the board was purged by a public campaign

sparked off by the media led by the workforce and completed by the Knesset; that the board was consequently revealed to have been a totally inefficient and possibly even self-serving group of self-appointed insiders; and that the bank's parent body was also revealed to have spent the last 50 years doing nothing.

Simultaneously, Mizrahi has been undergoing a thorough management change, with its third managing-director in nine months taking office on January 1. The penultimate managing-director is in court on criminal charges with two still-serving senior executives, and the workers' committee is on the verge of striking, new management or not. The previous managing-director is now reported to be planning to buy one of the bank's major subsidiaries and profit centres (Tefahot), while the managing-director (Aharon Meir) on criminal charges in Tel Aviv district court, is planning to buy the other major subsidiary and profit centre, namely the bank's international holding company with its highly profitable New York and other overseas operations. In short, Mizrahi is an almighty mess, and not the subject for polite conversation with well-meaning foreigners.

Then take Discount. Here too we find the workers on wildcat strikes, new management not yet settled in, and, above all, nobody quite sure what Discount minus the Recanatis means — indeed, nobody is sure if Discount really is minus the Recanatis or whether they are still active behind the scenes. Only Hapoalim is in a settled state, thanks to what seems to be a harmonious relationship between Yisrael Kessar as overlord watching from his vantage point at Hevrat Ovdin, Eitan Berglass as chairman, who actually spends most of his time working for the bank and has put his university lecturing in second place (no loss, it's only macro-economics and there are plenty of those professors to take his place, but few who can make a contribution to the economy by doing something useful like Berglass

does) and Amiram Sivan as chief executive officer.

In other words, only one of the four biggest banks is functioning smoothly. But when it comes to profits, as the 1986 results will show, none of the banks have anything to be proud of. The expectation is that the bottom line will be black, but not by much; the mountains of bad debts and the slow pace of shedding excess workers, branches and activities, will all take their toll.

In view of all the above, Israeli bankers and politicians will continue to focus their discussions with foreign bankers, finance ministers, and central bankers on the performance of the economy. They will herald the new stage two packages as the "son of stage one" and remind everyone of the latter's stunning success. They will talk of moving into a period of low-inflationary growth, and of opening up the economy. They will, in short, try and sell them the same bill of goods that they try and sell us, the poor, benighted Israeli public.

Interestingly enough, the reaction of the supposedly smart foreigners will be the same as that of the supposedly dumb Israelis: they will judge everything by a simple yardstick — the rate of inflation. If that falls — after, of course, the initial post-devaluation spurt — then they will be happy and will do more business with us in a variety of different ways. If it rises from the 1.5 per cent per month average achieved in 1986, they will be very unhappy and will look for excuses to reduce their amount of business with us.

It is as simple as that; and the events of 1983/84 on the one hand, and of 1985/86 on the other prove that the foreign experts act much in line with the Israeli public. That is because the Israeli public is the leading expert on its own economy, and the foreigners basically react to the same signals, but slightly later.

ONE LAST point is worth stressing. It might seem somewhat simplistic to look solely at the rate of inflation as a method of measuring the health of

the economy. After all, it might be pointed out, there is the balance of payments deficit, the budget deficit, the rate of exchange, productivity and everything else that fills our daily lives — do none of these mean anything? The answer is that while they are all terribly important, some in the long-term and some in the short, they are all part of the illness itself.

The outside observer doesn't want to bother with the causes of the illness and doesn't have to worry about the cure. He just wants to know how bad it is and he needs a handy symptom. Like the temperature of a sick person, that symptom is the rate of inflation. If it's low, you're either on drugs which attack the symptom but ignore the disease, or you're being treated properly for the disease — which of these the way is will become apparent in due course.

If it keeps going up, you're obviously sick and getting worse; if it reaches the mid-40's you're dead and that's all there is to it. What the actual cause of death was can be sorted out at the inquest, but the interested observer can wait to read about that in the papers. In the interim, he can send flowers and get on with his other business. That is why the rate of inflation is the simple and easy yardstick of foreigners who follow the Israeli economy, and that is why the response to the latest economic programme will be along the following lines:

"Yes, we have greater confidence in you after your recent improved performance and we are willing to believe that you have got things more under control now. We will continue to follow events, and if the improvement continues we'll be very happy and you'll benefit accordingly. If, however, the rate of inflation is not brought back to something that is semi-tolerable as it was for most of 1986, and it starts climbing to 50 per cent per annum or more, then we'll be very unhappy and again you'll know about it — but you will then rather that you didn't."

## Magazine — Winter 1987

In this edition:

- "The Well-Intentioned Entrepreneur" — Sir Moses Montefiore in the Land of Israel
- Desert delights: The ERETZ Guide to Travel in the Negev Highlands
- "Delivering the Goods" — The Nabatean Spice and Perfume Route
- "Kaffiyeh versus Tarbush" — Moslem Attitudes with Regard to Dress
- "The Boat that Came up from the Sea" — The First Ancient Boat Discovered in the Sea of Galilee
- "Old-Fashioned Farm" — How Israelite Farmers Fed Biblical Jerusalem
- "Bringing the Unicorns Back Home" — A Herd of White Oryxes Learns to Live in the Negev

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הכרזת תחרות



# MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

## Boggling the mind

The investment situation is extremely complicated, to a degree that most Israeli investors have not been accustomed to since July 1985.

Try summing up this week first. Sunday saw massive demand for foreign currency and foreign currency-linked securities, as devaluation rumours swept the country. Monday saw a reversal because the markets wrongly believed that the devaluation would be of only 5 per cent or so. Tuesday saw shares soar, index-linked bonds make strong gains while the dollar-linked bonds fell after taking into account the adjustment for the 10 per cent devaluation executed during the night. This trend in the dollar-linked sector continued on Wednesday and Thursday, while shares stalled on Wednesday and soared again on Thursday.

Anything connected with exports did exceptionally well, but most sectors of the market boomed. Index-linked bonds cooled off, as the adjustment process for higher inflation in the coming months was completed. Thursday's announcement of December's 1.5 per cent rise in the Consumer Price Index will do nothing to infuse new life into this sector, but sporadic price increases may be enough to keep it chugging slowly ahead.

So far, so not too bad, because most of the things that happened make sense, at least post facto. But not all. Why were the dollar-linked bank shares under heavy selling pressure for the last two days, so that without large-scale buying from the Bank of Israel their prices would have fallen quite sharply?

Part of the explanation is the post-devaluation run away from all dollar-linked assets, especially since the finance minister keeps promising to keep the exchange rate frozen for a very long time. Those who didn't believe such a thing possible last time are not going to make the same mistake twice, so they are selling.

Another part of the reason is the collapse of the dollar on overseas markets. This has already eroded part of the devaluation, and makes dollar-linked and denominated securities far less desirable than, say, European currency ones. The third aspect is that interest rates in shekels are unchanged, and thus still high for the moment.

If, indeed, the dollar stays stable against the shekel, the correct comparison is between the rate of return offered by the bank shares and that available in shekel deposits. The latter is around 20-22 per cent per annum, sometimes more, so the former can drop from yields of 16-17 per cent per annum.

But the central bank can't afford to have the bank shares at such high yields, so it is buying to support the price. Furthermore, it is thereby reducing its obligations for October 1988. These trends are all clashing and the result is weakness in bank shares. For anyone seeking a short-term yield with the protection of linkage in case the plan goes wrong, there is nothing better available. A fuller analysis of the advantages of these securities has appeared in this column previously, and will be repeated next week.

The rest of the solid investor's portfolio, i.e. unlinked shekel deposits and index-linked bonds, is also the cause of much headache. The key questions are A) will the plan work and B) what does the return in the capital market entail.

If the plan doesn't work, then inflation will go up and bonds, rather than Treasury bills or bank deposits, are by far the better investment for anything other than the next few weeks. Unless, of course, nominal interest rates are allowed to rise in line with inflation; rather than lagging. This must be considered unlikely. If the plan does work, locking in money at current high annual interest rates would be a good thing.

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Pinhas Landau

### Pinhas Landau

Pinhas Landau is a financial journalist and author. He has written several books on the Israeli economy and the stock market.

## Israel gets a credit rating

By KEN SCHACHTER  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - Israel has been assigned a credit rating in the U.S. for the first time, following the flotation of a \$105 million bond issue there in June by Koor Industries.

Koor, rated BB by Standard and Poor's, is the first Israeli firm to be assigned a credit-rating by one of the major U.S.-based agencies.

Israel has also been assigned a rating since appraisal of a company's creditworthiness requires assessment of its home base. Israel's rating was not disclosed. But it is thought to fall in the range from BB+ to AAA, the top rating, since a company cannot receive a higher rating than the country where it is based.

Should Israel decide to raise funds in financial markets through the sale of bonds, the interest it would have to pay upon redemption would be influenced by its credit rating.

Unlike many other countries, Israel has never been rated because it has never floated a bond issue on the major U.S. financial markets. Instead, it has raised money through bond sales within the U.S. Jewish community.

The BB credit rating Koor received was higher than expected in the financial community, according to Jac Friedgut, an adviser in the company's finance division.

"Everyone thought we'd get a B, B+, or at best a BB-," he said. "But because we're located in Israel, everybody knew we couldn't get an investment-grade rating."

Investment-grade ratings, which begin at BBB, indicate a company's or country's stability and are taken as an assurance of safety by investors.

Friedgut said the company didn't apply for a rating. But if Koor had its BB rating when it floated the bond issue, it would have been able to pay from 14 per cent to 1/2 per cent less in interest. The notes are due in 1996.

Overall, the S&P said Koor's outlook was "positive" and that improving conditions in Israel should "strengthen the company's financial and operating positions."

Among the major U.S. companies which have had BB credit ratings in recent years are Occidental Petroleum, Transworld Airlines and Metromedia Broadcasting.

The lowest rating issued by S&P is D, which means the company or country is in default. The other leading credit-rating agency, Moody's, has a slightly different rating system. The Koor bonds are quoted on the American Exchange's listing. Three Koor subsidiaries have stocks listed on the Amex: Carmel Container, Teva Chemical and Alliance Tire and Rubber.

S&P listed various factors that determined Koor's rating. On the positive side, it cited Koor's central role in the Israeli economy; its diversification, with production of electronic, telecommunications and military equipment; its financial flexibility, with many sources of funds worldwide; and its strong commitment to research and development.

Among the negative factors cited were problems caused by government policy and Koor's highly leveraged position, with an equity to capital ratio of 3:1 instead of a more moderate 1:1.

### Discount refuses to give workers raise

By KEN SCHACHTER  
TEL AVIV. - Workers at Israel Discount Bank yesterday delayed bank openings to press for a 3.5 per cent raise retroactive to April 1986, but management refused to meet their demand.

But the statement by management in reaction to the half-hour opening delay and a full-day wildcat strike on Wednesday made no mention of proposed layoffs affecting as many as 1,000 workers. IDB officials say the layoffs are needed to improve the bank's balance sheet.

The Histadrut, which didn't sanction the strike, is seeking a compromise under which pay demands will be reduced for a commitment from management to abandon the planned layoffs.

## Guinness scandal continues to brew

## Thatcher rejects clamp-down on London financial markets

LONDON (Reuters). - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday rejected calls to impose tighter controls over London financial markets amid a scandal surrounding the takeover activities of the giant Guinness brewing company.

Responding to questions from opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, Thatcher told parliament it was premature to consider changing the present system, under which market participants are left to supervise their own conduct.

"I think it is too soon to conclude one should change the present system which has been in operation but for a short time," Thatcher said.

In the biggest scandal to hit London's financial establishment - The City - for many years, Guinness directors Wednesday night decided to sack company chairman and chief executive Ernest Saunders and demand the resignation of two other directors.

Saunders, 51, masterminded a \$4 billion takeover last year of Distillers, a whisky firm, in which Guinness outbid a Scottish supermarket chain, the Argill group.

Suspicious that Guinness illegally supported its shares, or instigated



Guinness director Jonathan Guinness talks to reporters as he leaves Wednesday night's board meeting which decided to sack company chairman Ernest Saunders. (Reuters telephoto)

others to do so, to boost the value of its bid are being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), according to financial sources.

Kinnock called on the government to establish a statutory body on the

model of the Securities and Exchange Commission which oversees American markets.

Labour, trailing Thatcher's Conservative party in opinion polls, has accused the government of fostering the kind of atmosphere in The City in which corruption could flourish. "You introduced deregulation. You are now having to clean up the mess," Kinnock told Thatcher yesterday, in a reference to last October's "big bang" deregulation reforms which liberalized the stock market.

The changes swept away restrictive practices in the financial markets and opened them to free competition, whilst leaving regulatory matters in their hands.

Financial sources say investigations here were helped by information from the SEC, obtained in SEC inquiries into the affairs of Wall Street financier Ivan Bosky.

A leading merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell, advised Guinness during its takeover bid of Distillers. Newspapers have also linked the alleged share-supporting operation to banks in New York, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and London.

## Argentina secures \$4b. in loans

BUENOS AIRES. - The World Bank has granted Argentina a \$2 billion loan, the country's minister of the economy, Juan Vital Sourrouille, announced Monday.

He said that the agreement was signed Friday in Washington, at the same time as an accord with the International Monetary Fund for a \$1.35 billion standby loan. The IMF also granted a loan of \$480 million as compensation for the decline in value of Argentina's exports.

Mr. Sourrouille said that the World Bank loan would be dis-

bursed this year and next, and that repayment terms were being negotiated. The loan would be used to finance a series of projects designed to diversify Argentina's exports, overhaul the state sector and make the private sector more productive and competitive, he said.

The IMF loan will be disbursed in segments, every three months, with the last disbursement falling due on March 31, 1988. The loan is contingent on Argentina holding down its monthly inflation to 3 percent and reaching quarterly economic goals.

Mr. Sourrouille said that the IMF loan would be adjusted if Argentina's gross domestic product does not show an annual growth of 4 per cent.

He said the 15-month accord cleared the way for final negotiations with commercial banks on refinancing of Argentina's \$50 billion foreign debt, the third largest among developing countries after Brazil and Mexico.

The previous standby loan with the IMF, which insists on austerity measures by borrowing countries, ran out in May. (Reuters, AP)

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

### MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:		Turnovers:		4.25% fully-linked	
General Share Index	109.01+1.34%	Shares - total	NIS 28,943,100	80% linked	Generally rises to 1%
Non-Bank Index	114.67+3.36%	Arrangement	NIS 9,174,400	Double-linked	Mixed to 0.5%
Insurance	105.06+0.11%	Non-bank	NIS 17,768,700	Admon	Stable/falls to 3%
Commercial Services	103.11+1.61%	Bonds - total	NIS 11,779,300	Dollar-linked	Falls to 6%
Real Estate	110.27+3.68%	Index-linked	NIS 7,720,700	Rimon	Falls between 3-6%
Industrial	114.23+4.55%	Dollar-linked	NIS 4,058,700	Gilboa	Falls to 6%
Textiles	115.73+3.05%	Treasury Bills	NIS 8,170,900	For Curr. denominated Treasury Bills (annual yield)	Falls to 1%
Metals	120.21+4.43%	Share Movements:			22.00-21.55%
Electronics	110.75+1.79%	Advances	216 (86)		
Chemicals	118.28+2.34%	of which 5%+	86 (13)		
Industrial Invest.	117.01+5.25%	"buyers only"	1 (2)		
Investment Co.	115.93+3.72%	Declines	61 (164)		
General Bond Index	108.25+0.14%	of which 5%+	10 (26)		
Index-linked Bonds	108.28+0.13%	"sellers only"	0 (2)		
Fully-linked	107.28+0.19%	Unchanged	110 (135)		
Partially-linked	104.72+0.04%	Trading Halt	34 (34)		
Dollar-linked Bonds	105.04 -1.73				
Short-term 2-5 yrs	106.09+0.11%				
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	106.08+0.50%				
Long-term 5+ yrs	106.84+0.12%				

### SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%	Name	Price	Volume	%
General Share Index	109.01	109.01	+1.34%	Meir Ezra	1399	2769	+0.7
Non-Bank Index	114.67	114.67	+3.36%	Supersol 2	9070	1787	+7.1
Insurance	105.06	105.06	+0.11%	Delek r	4050	9068	+3.8
Commercial Services	103.11	103.11	+1.61%	Lightage	15320	120	-8.0
Real Estate	110.27	110.27	+3.68%	Cold Storage	4600	7700	+9.5
Industrial	114.23	114.23	+4.55%	Dan Hotels	1580	191	+6.4
Textiles	115.73	115.73	+3.05%	Yarden Hotel	2800	100	+5.6
Metals	120.21	120.21	+4.43%	Hilton 1	24650	36	-0.4
Electronics	110.75	110.75	+1.79%	Team 1	1030	1735	-
Chemicals	118.28	118.28	+2.34%				
Industrial Invest.	117.01	117.01	+5.25%				
Investment Co.	115.93	115.93	+3.72%				
General Bond Index	108.25	108.25	+0.14%				
Index-linked Bonds	108.28	108.28	+0.13%				
Fully-linked	107.28	107.28	+0.19%				
Partially-linked	104.72	104.72	+0.04%				
Dollar-linked Bonds	105.04	105.04	-1.73				
Short-term 2-5 yrs	106.09	106.09	+0.11%				
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	106.08	106.08	+0.50%				
Long-term 5+ yrs	106.84	106.84	+0.12%				

Trade & Services				Elron			
Meir Ezra	1399	2769	+0.7	Art	34000	46	+3.5
Supersol 2	9070	1787	+7.1	Clal Electronics	2400	281	+6.4
Delek r	4050	9068	+3.8	Sapcon 1	2500	4010	+2.2
Lightage	15320	120	-8.0	T.A.T. 1	4700	253	-
Cold Storage	4600	7700	+9.5	Ackerstein 1	961	2958	-
Dan Hotels	1580	191	+6.4	Agan 5	17320	118	+3.0
Yarden Hotel	2800	100	+5.6	Alliance	2310	762	+2.7
Hilton 1	24650	36	-0.4	Dexter	2850	30	-
Team 1	1030	1735	-	Fertilisers	5079	109	-
				Haifa Chem.	670	25198	+5.4
				Teva r	10840	1458	+5.8
				Dead Sea r	4570	4532	+1.6
				Petrochem.	575	17057	+1.1
				Neca Chem.	7420	120	-4.2
				Frutaron	14900	72	+1.4
				Hadersa Paper	334000	115	+4.4
				Central Trade	9530	1287	+5.1
				Koor p	9112800	0	+5.0
				Clal Inds.	1880	42888	+5.6

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## FINANCIAL DATA ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

### ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

#### SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month  
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	11.1	8-17%	8-17.50%	12-18.75%
HAPOLIM	12.1	8-16.00%	8-17.50%	14-21.21%
DISCOUNT	17.12	7-16.00%	8-16.20%	14-18.50%
MIZRAHI	11.12	8-17%	8-17.50%	14-21.21%
FIRST INTL.	13.157	10-16%	11-17.7%	13-20.04%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

### PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (January 14)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500
STG (100,000 pounds)	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
DMK (100,000 marks)	2.750	2.750	2.750	2.750
SFR (50,000 francs)	2.875	2.875	2.875	2.875
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	2.875	2.875	2.875	2.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

### SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates
	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	1	1.0570	1.0570
U.S.A. Dollar	1	1.6199	1.6245
Deutschmark	1	0.8897	0.8898
Pound Sterling	1	2.4174	2.4475
Japanese Yen	100	0.2803	0.2836
Dutch Florin	1	0.7714	0.7810
Swiss Franc	1	1.0364	1.0493
French Franc	1	0.2445	0.2476
Swedish Krona	1	0.2251	0.2279
Norwegian Krone	1	0.2285	0.2313
Danish Krone	1	0.3490	0.3534
Finnish Mark	1	1.1859	1.2007
Canadian Dollar	1	0.0432	0.0562
Australian Dollar	1	0.7800	0.7905
S. African Rand	10	0.4130	0.4182
Belgian Franc	10	1.2354	1.2508
Austrian Shilling	1000	1.2236	1.2689
Italian Lira	1	0.0001	0.0001
Jordanian Dinar	1	0.83	0.80
Syrian Pound	1	1.7924	1.8148
ECU	1	1.7924	1.8148

Buy and sell rates are from January 14. Yesterday's rates were unavailable.

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## EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

### PRECIOUS METALS

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SILVER: LONDON FIX 556.70  
PLATINUM: LONDON P.M. 529.50  
PALLADIUM: LONDON P.M. 123.50

### FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT) Forward Rates (January 15)

	SPOT	2 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
DEUTSCHMARK	1.8430/50	82/48	78/75	150/144
POUND STERLING	1.5080/70	120/118	180/178	365/362
SWISS FRANC	1.5350/70	70/65	100/95	185/175
JAPANESE YEN	153.50/60	62/50	72/70	137/132
FRENCH FRANC	6.1600/05	330/335	560/550	1000/1040
ITALIAN LIRA	1303.50/50	1050/1150	1550/1650	3000/3150
DUTCH GILDEN	2.0700/07	22/19	33/30	63/60
BELGIAN FRANC	37.930/50	15/20	19/25	31/38
DANISH KRONA	6.8915/40	500/550	760/810	1325/1375
SAFARIAN RAND	0.4843/50	30/23	40/33	80/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	1.1195/00	35/30	49/43	96/76
FINNISH MARK	4.8980/10	525/565	775/825	1600/1700
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6502/07	88/83	123/118	213/207
NORWEGIAN KRONA	7.1550/00	1210/1250	1875/1915	3610/3670

Formula for determining forward rates:  
high/low (eg. 220/210) - deduct from spot price.  
low/high (eg. 210/220) - add to spot price.

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## Kahane exposed

KNESSET members, at the inauguration of each and every new Knesset, are required to make a declaration of their allegiance to parliament and to its laws. The induction ceremony of the members of the 11th Knesset, held on August 13, 1984, with the septuagenarian Dr. Yosef Burg in the chair, was marked by a most unusual incident. This is how it was described by our parliamentary reporter:

"When Meir Kahane (Kach) stood to make the declaration, no one made a threatened walkout, but he created a minor sensation when he refused to utter the required statement, instead reciting a passage from the book of Psalms 'to forever observe Your Torah.'"

"Burg objected, and demanded that Kahane adhere to the required wording. Kahane, unheeding, twice repeated the verse. Burg said he would give him another chance later, as various MKs shouted that Kahane could not serve if he persisted in his refusal."

"In the end, when Kahane said the verse again, in addition to 'I so pledge,' Burg declared, 'He said that he said it,' and let the matter pass. Two Alignment MKs walked out in protest, and Kahane smiled at the small victory."

When the opening session was over Dr. Burg conceded that he was not actually sure whether Kahane had actually made a pledge of allegiance, without which he could not legally be seated as a fully-fledged member. Asked why he had handled Kahane in so permissive a manner, the venerable NRP leader replied, "Because I believe that way always works best."

Famous next-to-the-last words. It would be interesting to know whether this is still Dr. Burg's judgment — even after having found out, along with the rest of the country, that last September, in appealing the revocation of his U.S. citizenship by the State Department on the ground of his membership in a foreign parliament, Meir Kahane, stressing his continued allegiance to the U.S., informed the New York Federal Court that he had never taken the pledge of allegiance to the Knesset. He had only undertaken to "obey the laws of God."

Kahane would never have dared to even try such a trick in America. It would have been too risky. But the Jewish state, he must have figured, is fair game, and its parliament would not make too many inquiries about even his formal allegiance before letting him use the privileges of a Knesset member to undermine the country's democratic system. He was right.

But enough is enough. Now that he has been caught pursuing his fraud upon the Knesset in the most explicit form and in a court of law he must be called to account.

It may take an Israeli court to decide what precisely can be done to force him to compensate the Knesset for his violations. His affidavit abroad may not be *res judicata* here. But it is *prima facie* evidence that his place is not in a parliament of which he declares he is not a genuine member.

Mapam's Elazar Granot and the CRM's Yossi Sarid, who first brought the affidavit to the attention of Speaker Shlomo Hillel, are right in demanding, as the bare minimum, that he should be removed from the Knesset.

Once this is done, thought should be given to the question whether a Knesset member should be permitted to hold dual citizenship in the first place.

## NEW DEAL

(Continued from Page One)  
choice, since he will have to work under, and alongside, the incoming chairman.

The Bank of Israel is determined to achieve two aims in the choice of the next Leumi chairman. The first is to prevent a political appointment. In this they are supported by Duzin and Nissim to a large extent, as well as by Einhorn and Hurwitz. But not everyone sees the apolitical approach as paramount. JCT council member Dov Barzilai reportedly said in the course of the meeting that "no Israeli politician would have had the gall to demand what Japhet demanded."

The second central bank aim is to maintain the chairmanship as a non-executive post. This is apparently the reason why Clal managing-director Aharon Dovrat turned down the job when it was offered to him, and why First International Bank chairman Zaidik Bino also quashed initial feelers in his direction. Both of these men want more active roles than the 1985 guidelines laid down by the Bank of Israel for bank chairmen will permit.

The final difficulty complicating the search for a new chairman is the grim position Bank Leumi currently

finds itself in, regarding the relationship between board, management and staff, and with respect to its very poor public image.

As one source closely involved in the search put it: "A sane person would have to be mad to take this job now."

When it was suggested that the new chairman would be in a no-lose situation, since everything that could go wrong already has, the source replied: "That's what Eli Hurwitz said when he took over, and look what happened to him."

The bulk of the JCT meeting was taken up with mutual recriminations. The council decided to set up two committees: an appointments committee whose task will be to choose from the list of candidates presented to it by Duzin (who will chair it), a board of between seven and 15 directors, including a chairman; and another committee, chaired by Prof. Hans Klinghofer, to propose changes in the statutes of JCT so that the firm operates more effectively in future.

The former will begin work on Sunday, and may even complete its task on that day. The second will report back to the council within one month.

## HISTADRUT

(Continued from Page One)  
division. Aharon Fogel, told reporters yesterday that the Treasury recognizes that it has increased its funding for Kupat Holim, due to the higher wages granted the nurses. But he added that the gap between the two parties on the sums needed was still very large.

Fogel sharply attacked the Histadrut for making the aid to Kupat Holim a condition for signing the package deal. "This may be hard to believe, but the Histadrut is threatening the country's economic stability, and ultimately the wage earners, if it does not get money for Kupat Holim," he said.

Government sources said that the health fund's demands can be discussed at a later date.

# Israel's U.S. allies play a nasty game

Hirsh Goodman

ACCORDING TO a remarkable report from Washington earlier this week, Robert McFarlane, the former national security adviser and key figure in the evolution of the Iranian affair, now apparently admits that his earlier statements about Israel's role were false. The decision to pinpoint Israel as the originator of the idea, it appears, was taken after consultation by top-level national security aides to President Reagan in an attempt to protect him.

If McFarlane is not now lying about lying, it seems that Israel may have been the target of a callous, deliberate and potentially extremely damaging effort by the highest echelons of the American bureaucracy to make this country the scapegoat for their own incompetence. That they were prepared to sacrifice Israel on the altar of expediency is bad enough; but what makes this even more hurtful is that the same officials — McFarlane, National Security Council director Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and Colonel Oliver North — were considered some of Israel's closest friends in the White House.

McFarlane's retraction of his earlier statements still does not put Israel in the clear. It does, however, help to explain Attorney-General Edwin Meese's testimony before a congressional investigative committee that North had told him the major initiative for the arms to Iran policy came from David Kimche, the former director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and earlier reports attributed to Meese that the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, Amir Nir, knew about the Contra connection.

It is now apparent that North, like McFarlane, was acting at the dictates of the cabal of advisers dedicated to protecting the president, helping to sow the seeds of deception they hoped would achieve their goal. That Israel, still snarled in the aftermath of the Pollard spy scandal, would have paid a heavy price in terms of its relations with Congress, the American public and many within the American defence establishment had the lie been successful, seems to have been of little consequence.

So, apparently, was the damage that might be — and indeed has been — caused to Israel's strategic relationship with the U.S. That the same men now plotting to harm Israel in the most fundamental way for sheer expedience were, to a man, among Israel's greatest allies in building up a strong strategic relationship, only adds insult to injury.

FOR SEVERAL weeks, officials here have been watching with growing disbelief the way Israel has been trapped in the web of lies and deceit spun by the NSC officers dealing with Iran. While they refuse public comment, not wanting to bring Israel and the U.S. into confrontation in these delicate times, privately, the upper echelons of the Israeli government are both appalled and angry.

They are particularly infuriated by the Poindexter memo of early January, released by the White House at the end of last week, clearly indicating that the initiative for a new Iran policy, including swapping arms for hostages, came from Israel.

The document, it is claimed here, while not a forgery, is another lie. It fails to mention, for example, that for nine months prior to the date of the memo, Israel and the U.S. had, with the knowledge of the president, been in full partnership in dealings with the Iranians, including the shipment of weapons to Iran. It also fails to mention that, as Israel is prepared to substantiate, when Amir Nir discussed the plan with his American counterparts, he gave it less than a 25 per cent chance of success.

Whether the idea of trying to establish ties with new-found potentially pro-Western elements in Iran originally came from the president, it is really important. If Israel had indeed managed to find a channel to pro-Western elements and a possible way of engineering the release of the American hostages, the basic rules of strategic cooperation would have dictated that it share this information with the U.S.

Normal practice would also call for a policy assessment, and discussion between the two allies on how best to deal with the matter. Even if Israel did make the original suggestion, it was the president, McFarlane, Poindexter and North who implemented it.

"To think that we could rape four grown men and a superpower into something they thought was against their own best national interests is both naive and absurd," one senior cabinet member snorted when questioned privately on the subject.

JUST AS absurd, say other members, is the suggestion that Israel had anything to do with the diversion of the profits of the Iranian arms sale to the Contras. They are absolutely confident that "no investigation on earth" will ever be able to find a link between Israel and the decision from somewhere in the NSC and CIA to circumvent Congress.

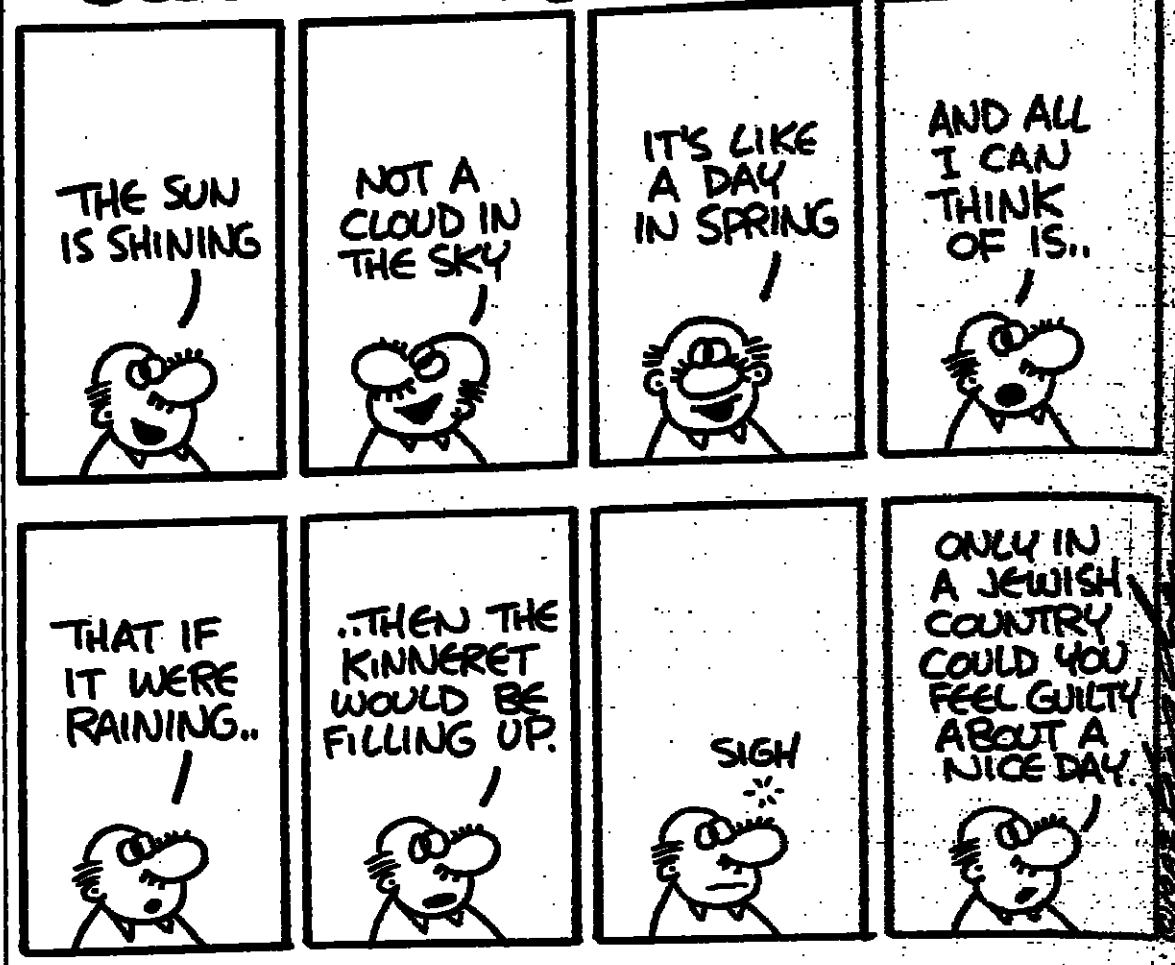
Israel, they continue to insist, had absolutely nothing to do with any Swiss bank account connecting Iran to the Contras, and no connection, direct or indirect, with the Contra phase of the Iranian operation.

"We have a clearly-defined strategic interest in Iran, and a clear tactical interest in getting the American hostages released," said a senior cabinet minister at a recent dinner. "But do you think I would jeopardize this country's relations with Congress — the \$300 million we get for the Lavi, the aid package and the pro-Israeli legislation we have been enjoying — for the Contras? You must be out of your mind."

Not one of the three ministers involved (Peres, Rabin and Shamir), would have been myopic enough to sanction such stupidity — he said — and certainly not all three.

AMIRAN NIR, some feel, may have known of North's doings on a

## The Friday Dry Bones



## READERS' LETTERS

### NAKASH AND FRANCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I take the strongest exception to French lawyer Theodore Klein's view that "most French Jews" are allegedly "outraged by the attitude of some Israeli authorities on the Nakash case" (December 18).

Most French Jews, on the contrary, feel a deep satisfaction that Israel has in some way retaliated for the failure of the French to extradite the Arab terrorist Abu Daoud and

for having set him free. Why should Israel treat France in a way it has not been treated by France? Obviously, this has nothing to do with the guilt or the innocence of Nakash. I do not feel Israel should become the automatic shelter of Jewish criminals. But France certainly deserves to be openly taught a lesson.

PAUL GINIEWSKI

Paris.

### VATICAN AND JERUSALEM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — The Jerusalem Post's reporting on Cardinal John O'Connor's visit to Jordan and Israel assists in identifying the issues obstructing diplomatic recognition of Israel by the Vatican. Two of the issues — "protection for Christian minorities" and "the Palestinian issue" — involve other states in the region, too, so it is difficult to see why Israel alone should be denied recognition.

As for Jerusalem, Israel has long recognized its transcendent qualities and the special international interest focused upon it. In July 1967, then foreign minister Abba Eban forcefully expressed Israel's outlook, in a letter to then-UN Secretary-General

U Thant, saying, "Israel does not doubt its own will and capacity to secure the respect of universal spiritual interests." Since then Israel's record in Jerusalem has responded well to the spirit of the Vatican's concerns.

Unless the Vatican genuinely holds that it is somehow inappropriate for a Jewish state to hold so pre-eminent a position in Jerusalem, an admission that its apprehensions with respect to the city have largely been met would be useful in narrowing the area of disagreement between the parties.

STEPHEN LEVINE

Jerusalem.

### FRENCH EMBASSY RESIDENCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I read with interest and amusement Mark Segal's remarks in The Jerusalem Post of December 5, as well as the perfectly accurate details added to it on January 1 in Mr. Emilio Traubner's letter, concerning my residence here.

However, your readers might be interested in knowing that Abdul Rahim had chosen as architect, Yitzhak Rappoport, from Tel Aviv. Due to the tensions existing at the time (1936-1939) between the two neighbouring communities, Mr. Rappoport had to disguise himself to go and work on the premises. A

member of the Hagana headquarters, he used to take advantage of his visits to Jaffa to gather precious information on what he saw and heard, as Abdul Rahim happened to be, in some form, the treasurer of the Arab groups, responsible for causing trouble to the British and the Jews.

In the end, Rappoport took part in the conquest of Jaffa in 1948, but as mentioned by Mr. Traubner, Abdul Rahim remained on the spot and sold his house later, quite legally, to the French government.

ALAIN PIERRET,

Jaffa.

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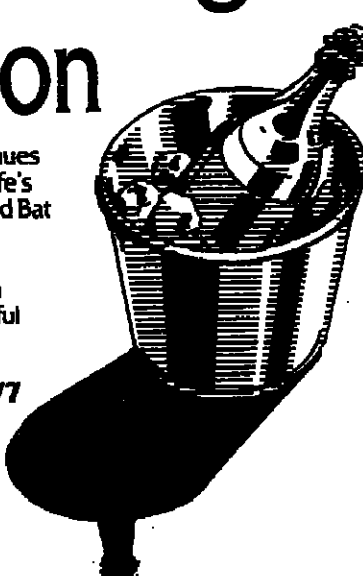
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